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Calgary metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016

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RICH AND POOR

Sharing economy turning us into mini capitalists: Author

metroLIFE

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

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McMurray evacuees get debit cards

metroNEWS

Suncor relied on own fire analysts

FORT MCMURRAY

Alberta also makes predictions on the spread of wildfires

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Suncor Energy has confirmed it used its own analysts to predict the path of wildfires near its facilities in Fort McMurray, and one source told Metro that it did so because it thought the provincial government's fire modelling and predictions were potentially flawed.

As wildfires raged in the city, both the government and Suncor had fire prediction specialists that traced the path of the quickly spreading inferno.

Sneh Seetal, spokeswoman for Suncor Energy, couldn't say Suncor trusted the judgment of government analysts.

"It's not really a yes or no type answer — I think it's too simplistic and doesn't look at the complexity of the unprecedented situation," Seetal said.

"If you look and compare the scope and scale of this fire in relation to others that our nation has seen, I think that pretty much puts things in context. It's an unprecedented situation and I wouldn't want to take away from the hard work the people had been working night and day."

Mike Long, spokesman for the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, said fire crews with oil and gas companies and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo focused on saving the city and its infrastructure, while government crews targeted the forest.

He said the government and Suncor's analysts shared intel, but didn't provide specifics on the collaboration.

Seetal also didn't say what Suncor's predictions specialists were analyzing. "I don't have that level of detail," she said.

She said Suncor has dealt with wildfires in the past and has always had predictions analysts staffed.

+ THANKING EXECS

On Tuesday, the government met with oil execs to thank the companies for their work in securing facilities and working together.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

After online groceries, Amazon launches into meal kit delivery

IN BRIEF

Calgary man charged with two bank robberies

The Calgary Police Service Robbery Unit has charged a man in relation to two bank robberies in the downtown core.

The first happened on May 6, when a man entered the CIBC bank located in the 200 block of 5 Avenue S.W. A similar method to that used at the CIBC was used at a BMO branch on May 9. A few minutes later, a man was arrested by officers without incident.

Rogiebert Daliva Demaisip, 29, of Calgary, is charged with two counts of robbery. He will next appear in court May 17. METRO

Police say Falconridge fire fatalities not suspicious

Calgary police say the deaths of five men in a Falconridge house fire have been deemed not to be suspicious.

The Calgary Police Service and Calgary Fire Department will continue to investigate to try determine the cause of the May 7 fire. However, the incident is not believed to be criminal in nature. The Calgary Fire Department will release the cause of the fire, if it is determined, once the investigation is complete. METRO

Firefighters save 25 cats

Fire crews rescued more than 25 cats and one dog after responding to a kitchen fire in Calgary's southeast on Wednesday.

The Calgary Humane Society plans to remove all the cats from the home. METRO

Sex-ed changes coming

EDUCATION

Minister says curriculum has room for improvement

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Alberta's education minister, David Eggen, said the ministry is looking at ways to strengthen the sexual health curriculum in the province.

Eggen said the ministry is interested in amending the curriculum to include issues surrounding safety, public health and respect between all genders.

"There's lots of room for improvement in the curriculum and we're definitely going to pursue that," he said.

While working on Bill 10 — the gender identity and expression guidelines for Alberta schools — Eggen has advocated for inclusive policies in schools, and said it's something the ministry wants to include in the Career And Life Management (CALM) curriculum as well.

Natasha Kornak, a second year university student, graduated from high school in Alberta. She has since started a change.org petition advocating for specific changes to the CALM curriculum.

Kornak said she'd specifically like to see the curriculum encompass consent and sexual assault. After hearing of a friend's sexual assault and the friend needing to access a rape kit, she was shocked she hadn't learned about the kit in high school.

"The scary thing is I never learned what to do in the event that I or a friend experience sexual assault," she said. "The only reason I now know what to do in the event of assault is because my friend was raped — not because I learned it in my sexual education course."

Natasha Kornak's change.org petition advocating for changes to Alberta's sexual education curriculum currently has 16,677 supporters. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

> **The only reason I now know what to do in the event of assault is because my friend was raped.**
> Natasha Kornak

Kornak will be meeting with Eggen's chief of staff Friday to discuss how she believes the curriculum can be improved.

The minister said they're currently doing a review of the curriculum, but wasn't sure when it would be done.

Alberta Accessing Information not Myths (AIM) said they are advocating for changes in the CALM curriculum in Alberta because they believe sexual education is currently taught inconsistently and based on fear in many places across the province.

"The sex-ed you get at a high school in Edmonton can be vastly different from the sex-ed you get at a high school in Camrose," said AIM chair Dr. Cristina Stasia. "In a lot of ways sexual education right now is very much determined by the culture of the school."

Stasia said AIM is advocating scientifically fact-based and inclusive curriculums to be taught in Alberta schools. She said they hope to see changes that include a list of approved speakers that use fact-based and inclusive lessons to teach sex-ed.

Eggen said these are all elements they are looking at addressing while revising the CALM curriculum. He said no matter what changes are made to sexual education, students will still require permission from their guardians to participate.

ARTS

Music mecca opens on Canada Day

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

5

The centre will be home to Canadian music memorabilia, equipment and artifacts spanning 450 years of music technology and five floors of exhibition space.

Downtown Calgary will be a little louder than usual this Canada Day — the National Music Centre will officially be open to the public on July 1.

"You can't see, but I'm doing backflips right now, I'm so excited," said Andrew Mosker, NMC president and CEO.

"It's been a long road, many years on many years of planning."

Construction of Studio Bell, home of the facility, began in 2013. It will be home to Canadian music memorabilia, equipment and artifacts spanning 450 years of music technology and five floors of exhibition space.

Mosker said the first 500 visitors to register for the event, starting on June 15, will receive a special gift on arrival.

For Mosker, what he's most proud of in the building is the three halls of fame located inside, the reconstruction of Calgary's famous King Eddy Hotel, and the architecture that he hopes will become a timeless icon for generations to come.

The $191-million project plans to have its full programming and construction complete and open by October 2016.

The state-of-the-art **National Music Centre** is designed to celebrate Canadian music. COURTESY BRANDON WALLIS

Taxi meter rates in a 'wild west scenario'

TRANSPORTATION

Discounts 'irresponsible,' says advisory member

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

With no active Transportation Network Companies to compete against, **one Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee member is wondering why rates are allowed to be lowered.** METRO FILE

The free-for-all taxi system isn't necessarily helping everyone — especially not drivers.

The April 4 livery bylaw making way for Transportation Network Companies to launch brought many changes to Calgary's taxi industry — some of them aren't pretty and, as operators note, "put everything on the backs of drivers."

The taxi meter rate was completely turned on its ear, and $3.80 became a maximum, which prompted brokers, beginning with Associated Cabs, to lower rates by 15 to 20 per cent.

According to some cab drivers, this isn't ideal as most brokers haven't gone the extra mile to lower taxi stand rates and vehicle leases.

On Wednesday, Robert McGregor, a taxi driver member of the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee, brought forward a notice of motion to reconsider the move toward a taxi meter rate maximum.

"Currently there are no TNCs in Calgary to compete with, and therefore there's no point in reducing the meter rate to the drivers," said McGregor. "The drivers have been suffering financially since November 2014, when oil prices dropped and business dropped."

McGregor said drivers were neither consulted nor considered in decisions to lower fares.

"That's not what the industry should be doing; that's not of any benefit to the drivers," McGregor said.

McGregor said drivers have resorted to breaking rules in order to make ends meet: Booking flat-rate rides and turning off meters to pocket cash, working long shifts, sleeping in their cars and struggling to keep up with climbing costs.

"I was never in favour of having meter rates go into a wild wild west scenario," said Kurt Enders, owner of Checker Cabs. "What people need to understand is, there's been three meter increases in the last eight years, and not once has Checker ever increased its stand rate to drivers. There's also been other costs that have been borne by the company that haven't been passed on — there's a lot of stuff drivers may or may not see that the companies do absorb."

> **The drivers have been suffering financially since November 2014, when oil prices dropped and business dropped.**
> Robert McGregor

Enders said at the end of the day Checker did do a stand rate decrease, but it didn't equate to what was decreased in fares, and if it did he would have to shut his doors.

Roger Richard, owner of Associated Cab, said companies have to face the fact that "the barn door is now open."

"We have a deregulated system," said Richard. His company, throughout the meeting, was brought up for their move to lower rates, which was described by McGregor as irresponsible.

"It's making the industry more competitive and we were the first ones to announce the decrease.…We've got to be more competitive, we have to make sure we do more for less, so more people will use taxi and limousines as their favourite mode of transportation."

McGregor's motion was referred back to TLAC and an updated version will be heard Q4 of 2016.

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Environment Minister Shannon Phillips says the carbon-levy money will be spent on front-line services and building retrofits.
CONTRIBUTED

Hospitals to cost $6M more to heat

HEALTH SERVICES

Critic says the carbon tax will reduce the level of care

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

If the government's carbon tax were in place, Alberta Health Services (AHS) would've spent about 38 per cent more on natural gas to power its facilities during the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Unveiled during the April 2016 budget, the government's carbon levy has caused concern among the province's opposition parties as they believe families and institutions will be on the hook for extra costs they can't afford.

On Wednesday, AHS said it spent more than $17.7 million on natural gas — with more than 4,372,264 gigajoules consumed by all of its facilities — during its 2015-16 fiscal year.

The government's carbon tax will charge an extra $1.517 per gigajoule, meaning AHS would've spent more than $24.3 million on natural gas, a spike of about $6.5 million.

Though AHS said it's currently reviewing the implications of a carbon tax on its utility costs, it will address the matter when the levy is in full effect.

However, Wildrose Health critic Drew Barnes said he thinks the extra carbon tax costs will reduce the level of health care services

> **"It's going to hit not-for-profits and seniors' care hard. There needs to be more local decision making.**
> Drew Barnes, Wildrose

"It's going to hit not-for-profits and seniors' care hard," Barnes said. "There needs to be more local decision making."

AHS also spent $4.2 million on fuel for ambulances, though it couldn't provide the number of litres they guzzled.

Environment Minister Shannon Phillips defended the carbon levy during an interview last week.

The government will re-invest the levy dollars into efficiency programs, like reinvesting in front-line services and retrofitting buildings to reduce energy consumption, Phillips said, adding the phase-out of coal could save Alberta $2.7 billion in health care costs over the next 20 years.

"Our Climate Leadership Plan is not about a carbon levy," Phillips said. "There are many aspects to it, and one of those is a significant avoidance in healthcare costs."

FENTANYL OVERDOSES

Naloxone available without prescription

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

A drug that can save opioid users from a fatal overdose will be available without prescription in Alberta starting Friday.

The government is making naloxone easier to get in a bid to curb deaths caused by fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid that officials linked to 69 deaths in the province in the first three months of this year — and 274 deaths in 2015.

"Too many lives have been cut short by fentanyl and too many families have lost loved ones," said Associate Minister of Health Brandy Payne.

Health Canada cleared the way for provinces to make naloxone available without a prescription earlier this year.

The injectable antidote can already be obtained for free at more than 700 sites in Alberta, including pharmacies and community health clinics. Alberta has tripled its supply of naloxone kits from 3,000 to 9,000 since December 2015, at a cost of roughly $25 per kit.

Naloxone has been available without a prescription in B.C. since March.

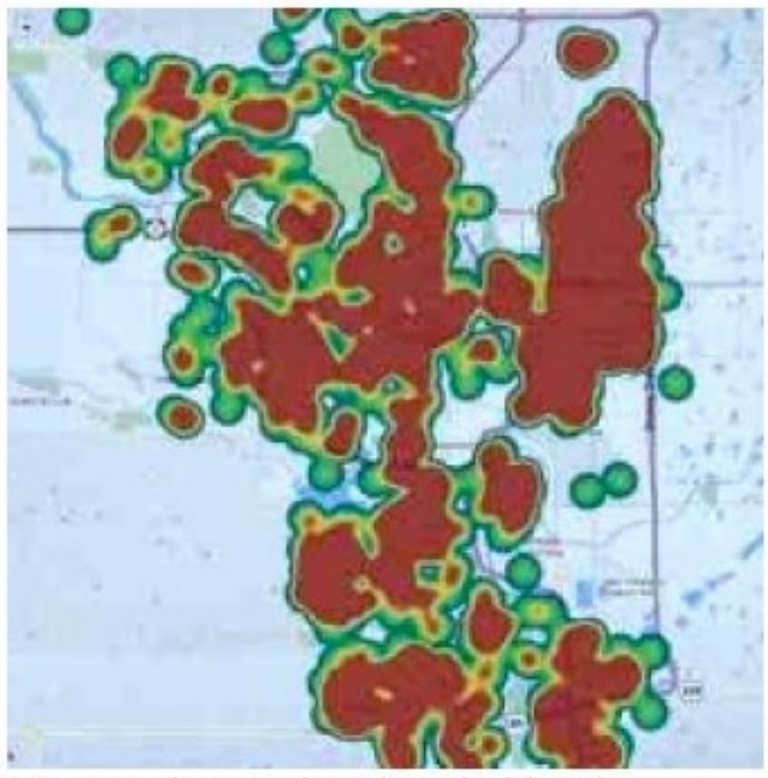
Payne said the government does not plan to declare a public health emergency to deal with the rash of overdose deaths, despite continued calls from the Wildrose and PC parties. Declaring an emergency would give officials permission to seize property and enter buildings without a warrant.

"It wouldn't provide us with any more tools than we already have, but then it has the flip side of impacting the rights of Albertans," Payne said.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley said she has written to the federal government to support an Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police resolution that would ban pill presses and fentanyl precursors across Canada.

Ganley is also in talks with the federal government to expedite the process of making W-18 — an even more toxic drug recently found in Alberta — illegal.

Wildrose shadow minister for health Drew Barnes said he was in "full support" of Wednesday's announcement but criticized the government for not moving more quickly.



A HomeFront heat map shows domestic-violence instances across the city. COURTESY HOMEFRONT

Economy inflames violence

PUBLIC SAFETY

Domestic conflict team seeks funding over outbreak

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

As the economy went down, domestic-violence in Calgary went up, increasing 10.2 per cent between 2014 and 2015.

The annual Calgary Police Service report to Community and Protective Services, released two weeks ago, describes the Domestic Conflict Response Team (DCRT) as a unique partnership between a uniformed officer and a case manager that intervenes in chronic, high-risk domestic-conflict cases. Their goal is to intervene before the situation escalates or there is serious violence.

The report indicated that in 2015, 784 files were referred to DCRT and said they're having issues "securing sustainable funding for domestic-violence case managers."

HomeFront executive director Maggie McKillop said although provincial funding is secure for the year, they're in conversations for more long-term funding.

"Akin to the immense impact this kind of a program has on the larger community and those impacted by domestic conflict, to have those discussions around multi-year and long-term sustainable funding is where we need to go so we don't have to go year by year questioning whether or not we're going to have the ability to provide our services," she said.

McKillop said right now there are eight case managers — one in each of the police districts.

"Certainly with the downturn in the economy, that is when you're seeing these extra stressors on families that weren't previously there," she said. "Not having the coping mechanisms and having those increased stressors, it creates potentially more safety issues and more concerns for families."

> **That is when you're seeing these extra stressors on families.**
> Maggie McKillop

In addition, McKillop said, people who would usually leave domestic-violence situations might not now because of the economic pressure.

"We've absolutely seen an increase in the complexity of our files, and there has been an increase in the higher-risk files that are more complex and require more time and attention to mitigate risk," she said.

ALCOHOL

Albertans lead country in booze boost

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Alberta led the country in increased sales of beer and wine last year, according to the latest figures from Statistics Canada.

The numbers from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 showed Alberta's beer sales had jumped 4.6 per cent over the previous year, compared with the national average of 3.1 per cent.

Wine sales were up 9.5 per cent, close to double the 5.1 per cent national average.

Alberta spirits sales were up 3.1 per cent, which was the third-highest jump in sales in the country, behind Quebec and B.C.

So were more people turning to booze during the economic downturn?

Halia Montemayor Valladares, economist and chairwoman of International Business and Supply Chain Management at Mount Royal University, doesn't think it's quite that simple.

$765.7M

Net income of the Alberta liquor authority last year — up 2.5 per cent

She said that, as a general rule, people do drink more during an economic downturn. The real story, she said, has more to do with the changing tastes of millennials.

"Fortune magazine had an article that said millennials are drinking more wine than boomers and more wine than ever before," she said.

The article notes millennials on average are drinking 3.1 glasses of wine per sitting.

Beer is still the top-selling alcoholic beverage in Alberta when it comes to dollars spent. Albertans spent $1.1 billion on beer compared with $565 million on wine.

ELIZABETH ARDEN

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Permit fees waived for Calgary's Neighbour Day

ANNUAL EVENT

Communities encouraged to organize block parties, BBQs

Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

Katie Black and Mayor Naheed Nenshi announced the city's plan to waive permit fees for Neighbour Day on June 18.
JENNIFER FRIESEN / FOR METRO

The city is waving permit fees in honour of Calgary's third annual Neighbour Day.

Held on the third week of June, the city-wide event was designed to give neighbours the chance to come together over BBQs, picnics and parties.

To help everyone get involved, Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Katie Black, director of Calgary Neighbourhoods, announced on Wednesday that block party and green space permits will be waived for the June 18 event.

"When people are engaged in their neighbourhoods, when their neighbourhoods are thriving, we know those people will thrive too," said Black.

In 2014, the first Neighbour Day was held to commemorate and celebrate the community generosity and support displayed in the aftermath of the 2013 floods.

The tradition has continued ever since, and, with the wildfires still raging in northern Alberta, Nenshi said that neighbourly spirit displayed in 2013 must continue as well.

"We are feeling the sense of community even more than we normally do in Calgary, right now," he said.

"As we look after all of our friends and neighbours who have been displaced as a result of the fires in Wood Buffalo and Fort Mac, please make sure you're continuing to reach out to folks, and that they understand that they live in a community that will look after them."

Neighbour Day has included community clean-ups and fence-paintings in the past, and Nenshi added that this year communities could use the event as a fundraiser to help rebuild what was lost.

Permits aren't required for all Neighbour Day events, but are needed for large block parties or to get exclusive use of a park.

The deadline to submit permit applications is May 27.

To sign-up for Neighbour Day and access the event planning kit, information about permits, templates or to invite the mayor himself to your party, visit Calgary.ca/NeighbourDay.

POST-SECONDARY BOARD

500 apply for 36 positions

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

The Alberta government's move towards open post-secondary board applications has garnered some interest, and piles of resumes.

According to a spokesperson, as of September, 36 positions brought in more than 500 applications in a public posting process. A number of the postings were closed on May 9, but as board openings roll through the process more opportunities are being posted.

Next steps include a review of the applications at the Advanced Education office and interviews before cabinet approves them.

In April, Alberta Party Leader Greg Clark raised concerns over the new process in question period when he said a letter was sent to the University of Calgary board members advising, "none of the current board member appointments would be renewed" when their terms ended. He highlighted this as a major concern, noting these positions were already merit-based appointments.

According to the minister's staff all members who were up for renewal have to go through the application process, and among the applicants so far there's been a noticeable uptake in existing members looking for reappointment.

In total there are 341 board positions across post-secondary.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Restaurant blasted after photo of server's feet posted online

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

An Edmonton restaurant is the target of online outrage after a picture posted on Facebook purports to show one of its servers with bloodied feet from wearing high heels.

"My friends (sic) feet were bleeding to the point she lost a toe nail and she was still discouraged and berated by the shift manager for changing into flats," Nicola Gavins wrote in a post last week accompanying the photo.

A photo Facebook user Nicola Gavins posted of her friend's feet after allegedly working a shift at JOEYS in Edmonton.
FACEBOOK.COM

Gavins accused JOEY Restaurant's Jasper Avenue location of having "sexist, archaic requirements," including policies that, she alleges, make female staff "wear heels unless medically restricted" and purchase a uniform for $30 while male staff can dress themselves.

The post had been shared more than 11,300 times on Facebook Wednesday afternoon.

Many spoke out in support of the post, including one woman who said she used to hostess at a JOEY location and was told by a superior that she could move up to a serving job once she "lost weight and got hotter."

But others disputed its validity, including one woman who said she worked at JOEY for three years.

"I was never told to, let alone forced to wear heels," she wrote.

Not everyone left Fort McMurray

Hartley Bushell hugs P.J. the pug, whom he rescued from the rubble of his friend's home. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY HARTLEY BUSHELL

PERSEVERANCE

Hartley Bushell convinced his wife to stay back with him

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Hartley Bushell wasn't going to let flaming embers destroy his beautiful backyard.

As wildfires encroached on Fort McMurray last week, causing officials to command a mandatory evacuation order, Bushell stayed back with hoses at the helm.

Bushell didn't do it alone, either. He had his wife, Chalinee, at his side.

"My wife was in tears and wanted to leave, but I wouldn't do anything that would endanger her, ever, so I assured her we were going to be OK.

"I didn't want to see it go up in smoke because it would be a year later that I'd move into a plastic house — somewhere I don't want to be — and it certainly wouldn't have an outdoor kitchen and a water feature."

Sgt. John Spaans of the Alberta RCMP said there have been others who stayed put, though he wouldn't say how many, as officers don't want to discourage residents who fled.

He said RCMP can't force people to leave via arrest, unless they pose a danger to themselves and the public.

Bushell was told to leave several times, but said he knew he was in the clear.

"I'm not a daredevil," he said. "We maintained a vigilant, diligent spark watch. We had an easy escape route and our vehicle was packed with supplies."

He said he used his neighbours' hoses to create a "wall of water" until about 1 a.m. Wednesday, as flaming debris blew in from the highway.

"We stayed the course and kept everything from igniting until the fire was no longer an immediate threat," he said. "The fire department came and killed the fire on the east side of the highway, where I am."

The next morning, he ventured to his friend's homestead, where he found a whimpering P.J. the pug among the rubble.

A nearby home was destroyed after it caught fire last week.

"I scooped him up and took him back to my place," he said. "I phoned the owner right away and the little girl was very happy."

Animal rescuers retrieved P.J. late last week, leaving Bushell a bit lonely. His wife is currently in Nova Scotia for relaxation and their godchild's christening.

"I'm a patient man, and I'm being vigilant but the fire risk has passed," he said. "The firefighters have done a gargantuan, heroic job to keep this fire from destroying this city. They deserve every accolade."

Bushell set up sprinklers to keep homes wet.

RECOVERY

Cash relief for fire evacuees

Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

When Patrick Bailey and Korey Sweeney joined the line in Edmonton at about 11 a.m. Wednesday, an estimated 100 people already were ahead of them.

At the front of the line was what many of them desperately need: Money.

Last week, as a wildfire bore down on Fort McMurray, Bailey and Sweeney had only time to pack enough clothes to fill a duffel bag between them before fleeing.

But on Wednesday, the friends went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton as evacuees.

They said the prize at the end of the long queue — debit cards with government money — would be going toward basic necessities.

"It'll help us get food, rent, just help us get back on our feet, basically," Sweeney said.

Premier Rachel Notley announced Wednesday that Alberta will supply each adult who has evacuated Fort McMurray with pre-loaded debit cards holding $1,250 on them.

The line formed quickly at the U of A. KEVIN TUONG/METRO

$1,250

Amount given to each adult who had to leave Fort McMurray under evacuation order.

The government would also add $500 for each dependent child under the age of 18.

In response, evacuees from Fort McMurray queued in massive lines in Edmonton Wednesday for the money.

An hour before the government was to start distributing the cards, at 2 p.m., the line already wound through the Butterdome arena at the University of Alberta campus, out the door, down a ramp and around the block.

The reason was need.

For Bailey and Sweeney, that means help in paying rent for a new apartment in Edmonton.

Further down the line, Diana Shortman and Jerry Gillingham said the money will pay for clothes and supplies for their two small children.

"I'm not so worried about myself; I'll make it," said Gillingham, who was at home with his children when the fire broke out, with Shortman still in a work camp.

"Basically we've been focusing on them," he said, adding they've all been wearing the same set of clothes for a week.

The debit cards will be available to anyone who had to leave Fort McMurray, regardless of economic circumstances.

Notley stressed Wednesday that people who have money right now should allow those without the first spots in lines.

Fort Mac couple call wedding 'a sign'

LOVE

Now-married pair thought nuptials were ruined by fire

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

A Fort McMurray couple wed in a surprise backyard ceremony last week after losing their home in the wildfire said the wedding was a sign from God.

Carlos and Carol Moran were to be wed May 14, but when the wildfire engulfed their Beacon Hill neighbourhood, they lost their home as well as their rings and hope for the wedding they'd planned together.

Thanks to friends and many strangers in Edmonton, the couple was able to have a ceremony. Put together in just a few hours, their nuptials were complete with donated rings, food, décor, photography and more.

"We were surprised," said Carol. "We thought it was only going to be a few friends and our parents, but then there was someone there to do my hair, my makeup and so much more."

The couple said their surprise wedding was a message from on high.

"It was a gift from God," said Carol. "He was telling us that he still cared about us."

The best part? Carlos said that's an easy question to answer.

"Marriage," he said. "Becoming husband and wife and knowing we will be moving through what's ahead as a married couple."

Jenna Dostie, who volunteered her services at Dostie Photography, captured the couple's day.

"I'm a sucker for love and was thrilled to capture the true love radiating from their eyes," she said.

"They couldn't let go of each other; they hung onto each other like life jackets. It was heartbreaking, but I was so ecstatic that we were able to pull it together so quickly so they could start their life together."

The Morans said right now they're preparing to rebuild — but are happy they get to go forward as a married couple.

Carlos and Carol Moran. CONTRIBUTED/DOSTIE PHOTOGRAPHY

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ART

Volunteer responder inspired by the crisis

A Calgary emergency-response worker volunteering on the front lines of the Fort McMurray wildfire is using his experiences as inspiration for his art.

Johnny Walker said he's been writing poetry since he was a little boy.

He also said that working on the front lines in Lac la Biche has stirred his creative spirit and he's written multiple poems about the tragedy.

The poet said his works are based off his experiences with people and what he sees.

"There was a little girl holding her mom's hand with tears in her eyes, and she said, 'Mommy, when do we get to go home? I miss my bed,' and the look on her face was heartbreaking," he said.

"It's personal experiences like this that inspire my poems."

This is not the first time the poet has drawn on tragic circumstances for artistic inspiration.

Walker published a book of poems after working as an ERT during the 2013 floods called Through High Water, and said it's been purchased around the world.

He said he has plans to publish another book full of poems about the Fort Mac wildfire.

LUCIE EDWARDSON/METRO

Johnny Walker. CONTRIBUTED

> **There was a little girl holding her mom's hand with tears in her eyes.... The look on her face was heartbreaking.**
> Johnny Walker, poet and volunteer firefighter

POETRY

Into the Gates of Hell

Darkness fills the sky even in the daylight
Plumes of thick smoke billowing
from within the earth's floor
Homes and vehicles destroyed beyond measure,
a tear rolls down my cheeks
Ashes falling and floating as though it's is snowing.
Hot embers, crackling, burning heat blazing all around
Panicked looks on people as they try desperately to leave to go — unknown
A child's quivering cry as she holds her teddy bear clutched tight in her arms
Soot as dark as mud covers what appears to be a road
Stranded vehicles with out of gas wrote with fingertips on ash-covered windows.
The pain is real, the strength is strong

JOHNNY WALKER

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Prom dresses for Fort Mac

SHARING

Facebook page clearinghouse for donor wear

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Veronica Ostermann remembers that after the floods in 2013, many of her classmates either couldn't afford, or had lost their prom dresses.

Ostermann said thanks to many charitable people in Calgary and surrounding areas, her classmates received donated prom attire.

Now, with the help of volunteers across the country, Ostermann is doing the same for Fort McMurray evacuees. Her team is gathering donated prom dresses, tuxes, shoes and jewelry to help take some of the stress off the shoulders of those displaced by the blaze.

"I started a Facebook page and at first it was just 50 people. All of a sudden within 48 hours it expanded to 2,000 wanting to help and donate or collect dresses," she said.

Ostermann said everyone understands the importance.

"Grad is a big deal for teenagers so we thought, 'Why not help them with their outfit and de-stress the situation a little bit?'" she said.

The Facebook page, "Fort McMurray Grad Donation," set up by Ostermann, has had huge success — with hundreds of prom dresses being donated.

The group is organized so that there are people in cities across the country — including Ottawa, New Brunswick and British Columbia — prepared to collect dresses and ship them out.

One of the group administrators, Michaela Lathlin, said the group's success is largely due to the generosity of Canadians.

"It couldn't have happened if the amazing people of Canada hadn't come together," she said. "Those grads have worked their butts off for 13 years. Of course we're going to do everything and anything to give them a well-deserved celebration."

WHAT TO DO

Those wishing to donate dresses, suits, jewelry or shoes can visit the Fort McMurray Grad Donation page and connect with their local representative listed atop the page.

The group is working with Project Prom, which collects dresses year-round for those who cannot afford to purchase one. All dresses not used by Fort McMurray evacuees will be donated to others in need, or returned to storage until next year.

Veronica Ostermann LUCIE EDWARDSON/METRO

IN BRIEF

Fort McMurray council convenes in Edmonton

Fort McMurray's civic leaders met Wednesday for the first time since the wildfires, and they did so as evacuees in Edmonton.

Provincial officials updated Mayor Melissa Blake and the other councillors of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo on the plan for residents to return to the city. They asked staff to review both the capital projects planned for the year ahead, as well as other spending plans.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

ATCO restoring power and gas slowly but surely

Power and gas is slowly being restored to Fort McMurray, but ATCO's president says it's impossible to say how soon residents of the northern Alberta community will be able to go home.

Siegfried Kiefer says about 300 ATCO workers are working around the clock to restore electricity and natural gas to homes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michael Langille said that collecting fish began as a childhood hobby — but was blooming into a successful home business.
COURTESY MICHAEL LANGILLE

Concern for 200 fish left behind

PET RESCUE

Man focused on home business after passing of two loved ones

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Michael Langille has spent the past week pacing through a campground in Lac la Biche — his thoughts swimming to the 20 tanks of more than 200 fish still in his Fort McMurray garage.

The 21-year-old began collecting them as a hobby when he was a child, but had recently begun trying to turn his fascination with marine life into a home business, called F & A Aquariums.

Langille recently lost two important figures in his life, his grandmother and his dog.

"I've kept myself busy in the garage since October," he said. "It's definitely given me a place to keep my mind busy.

"It gave me an outlet."

When the call for a mandatory evacuation came through due to the growing wildfires, Langille opted not to take any fish with him — afraid the stress would be too much for them.

"We didn't think this was going to last this long," he said. "I guess we were pretty naïve about it."

He said the fish can survive for a while without food, so long as they have clean water. That is his major concern — if the power has gone out in his home, the filters in his tanks won't be working.

"A lot of them will drain when the power goes out," he said. "If the water level drops, the heaters could crack or explode, creating even more fire hazards."

He has several types of fish, including goldfish, bettas, angelfish and his favourite, the discus fish.

He's done what he can to check on them — he's filled out a pet rescue form with the SPCA, and he's even found people in Edmonton willing to take in some of the tanks until he can return to Fort McMurray.

But therein lies the problem: Langille hasn't been allowed to get past the barrier to check on them, despite his best efforts.

Alberta SPCA officers said in a statement they've been trying to provide food and water for all the animals they've encountered, but Langille said some of his fish have specific diets, and will only eat certain foods.

"Of course, I have to have the picky fish, right?" he said laughing sadly.

For now, he continues to wait, and hope for the best.

LOAN PAYMENTS

Post-secondary students given reprieve

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

College students from Fort McMurray's Keyano College are holding on to one beacon of light as their semesters continue to be clouded with uncertainty after the Wood Buffalo area mandatory evacuation.

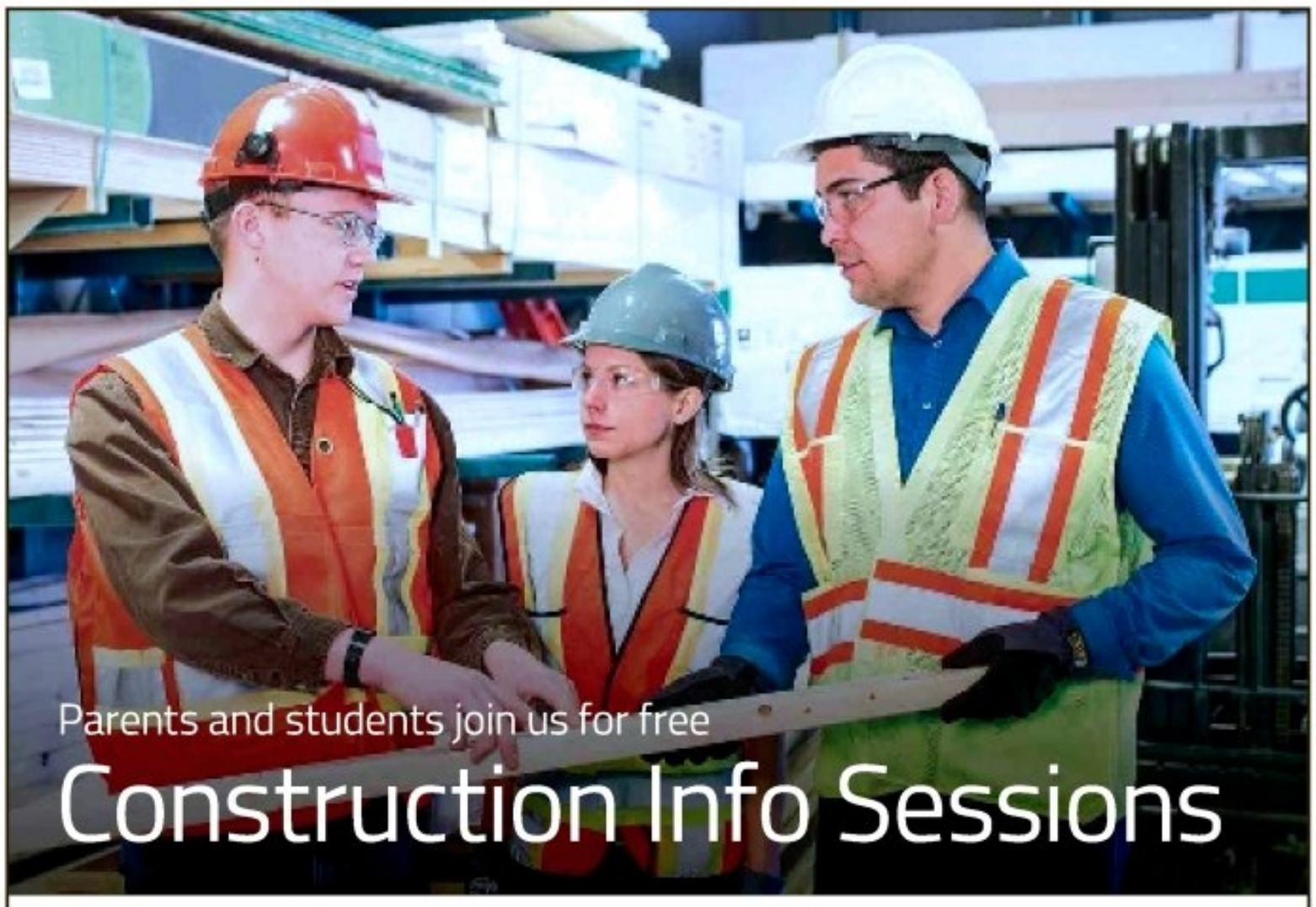
On Tuesday, Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt announced Fort McMurray students would have a six-month reprieve from student loan payments as uncertainty about the fall term overwhelms learners.

"I think it's a good response on behalf of Student Loan Alberta," said Chelsi Ryan, a second-year bachelor of education student. "For a lot of us, what fall semester looks like is already a little nerve-wracking, which means deferred payments and interest gives us a little breathing room."

Keyano College told its students the campus is closed until further notice. Servers are down, and even applying for fall courses is a struggle. The school has few resources to try and refund students for cancelled classes after their spring term was shut down. Their systems are down and a lot of normal functions, like sending out enrolment confirmation letters, are now impossible.

"For the new graduates, this means finding a job doesn't have to happen right away to keep their payments," said Ryan. "For myself, it's just one less thing to cross off the list. I've been blessed that rent has been deferred, insurance premiums and now my student loan payments, so I can focus on the essentials right now."

The government has also alleviated pressures on students gearing up toward post-secondary as another announcement last week confirmed Fort McMurray students are exempt from diploma exams.



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SAIT

Burlesque performers aiming to strip stigma

ENTERTAINMENT

Act will show that disabled people have sexual identities

Talking about sex can be awkward for anyone, but some people with disabilities say expressing their most intimate needs can often feel insurmountable.

To challenge the taboo, a group of performers who have disabilities will bare their hearts and bodies in a new burlesque cabaret that includes a wheelchair striptease. The show weaves together comedy, sequins and silk gowns to dress up a topic that those involved say goes underexposed.

"We have a libido like everybody else," said Andrew Vallance, 35, who will host the show that opens this week in Vancouver.

"But there's a whole load of prejudice and institutional barriers that prevent us from expressing our sexualities. It's about time we knocked those barriers down."

The show, titled Sexy Voices, runs for three days starting Thursday. It will fearlessly thrust sex and disability into the limelight, said managing artistic director Rena Cohen, with the non-profit Realwheels Theatre company. It's not physical, but attitudinal barriers that are the greatest challenges for people with disabilities, Cohen said.

Along with being entertained, Cohen hopes audiences will acknowledge that many people with disabilities are denied sexual identities, ranging from overt stigma to incidentally not being perceived as having the capacity for intimacy.

The stories on stage will range from racy and sexually explicit to quite sweet, said director Rachel Peake. The goal is to portray people with disabilities as three-dimensional through the illumination of their sex lives, she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Performer Alexis Chicoine fixes her hair before rehearsal for an ensemble burlesque cabaret show in Vancouver, on Tuesday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Parents guilty of spanking

A British Columbia couple found guilty of assault with a weapon for spanking their teenaged daughter with a plastic hockey stick and a skipping rope will not face jail time.

The parents from Salmon Arm, B.C., were given a conditional discharge Tuesday, meaning they will not have criminal records if they follow the court's orders and serve the 12-months probation handed to them by a judge.

They are also prohibited from doling out corporal punishment to any minors in their care, and both the mother and father will be required to provide a DNA sample.

Provincial court Judge Edmond de Walle convicted the couple earlier this year.

The trial heard that the mother and father spanked their 14-year-old daughter after they discovered she sent nude photographs of herself to a young man.

The father testified that he had "no clue" that corporal punishment was illegal when he spanked his daughter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ELECTION REFORM

Liberals stacking the deck for committee: Opposition

The Trudeau government was accused Wednesday of stacking the deck in the Liberal party's favour as it finally made good on a promise to create a special parliamentary committee on electoral reform.

Democratic Institutions Minister Maryam Monsef insisted the government remains open to considering any and all alternatives to the existing first-past-the-post voting system.

But with the committee to be dominated by Liberals, opposition parties suspect it's geared to propose a ranked ballot system — an alternative favoured by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and which critics maintain would primarily benefit the Liberals.

"The Liberals have chosen to maintain their false majority on the committee, stack the decks," said NDP democratic reform critic Nathan Cullen.

Cullen had proposed that the governing party surrender its usual committee majority for this particular committee, instead allotting membership in proportion to the share of the popular vote won by each party with a seat in the House of Commons.

With that rejected, Conservative Leader Rona Ambrose said it's more important than ever that the government agree to hold a referendum to give Canadians the final say on any new voting system.

"This is not about advancing a skewed partisan interest but about giving greater and more representative voices to all Canadians to express their values, needs and aspirations in elections," Monsef said.

The 10-member committee is to consist of six Liberal MPs, three Conservatives and one New Democrat. One member of the Bloc Quebecois and the Green party's lone MP, Leader Elizabeth May, will also be members but without the right to vote or move motions.

The motion creating the committee says a proposed alternative voting system must reflect five principles, ensuring that it will:

- Increase Canadians' confidence that "their democratic will, as expressed by their votes, will be fairly translated" and that it will reduce distortion between a party's share of the popular vote and the number of seats it wins in Commons.
- Encourage voting, foster greater civility and collaboration among parties, and enhance social cohesion and inclusion of under-represented groups.
- Avoid "undue complexity" in the voting process.
- Ensure reliable and verifiable election results.
- Maintain accountability between MPs and their local communities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

More mental health workers for Attawapiskat

Health Canada says it will fund two additional mental health workers and a case manager for youth in Attawapiskat to assist with the Ontario reserve's suicide crisis. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bob Geldof says Trudeau unambitious on aid targets

PM Justin Trudeau got a scolding from musician and activist Bob Geldof for failing to live up to his promise to spend 0.7 per cent of its gross national income on foreign aid. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In India, right-wing activists make offerings to the fire god as they conduct Hindu rituals to ensure a win for U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump. Trump's calls to temporarily ban Muslims from America and crack down on terrorist groups have earned him some fans in India. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump aiming for party unity

U.S. ELECTION

Front-runner has 92% of the delegates needed

Donald Trump is taking a run at party peacemaking now that voters have put him on a glide path to the Republican nomination. If he can't get restive Republicans like House Speaker Paul Ryan on side, he says he'll keep on winning anyway.

Trump now has 92 per cent of the delegates he needs to clinch the nomination, according to AP's count, after he earned a hefty haul Tuesday night in West Virginia and Nebraska primaries. He has the field to himself, but after having nearly closed the deal with primary voters, he's facing a Republican establishment that is deeply wary of his candidacy but has nowhere else to go.

Trump and Ryan are to meet Thursday, days after the speaker — the nation's top elected Republican — withheld his endorsement. Asked on Fox News what will happen if the meeting does not go well, Trump said: "We'll trudge forward and do like I've been doing, and win all the time."

Despite his unconcerned tone, much rides on the relationship he forges with party leaders. Trump's bare-bones campaign has glaring deficiencies the party apparatus is uniquely positioned to address. The New York businessman has largely ignored collecting information on voters he needs to turn out in November, sent few staff to battleground states and taken no steps to build a fundraising network. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Allegation by Philippine VP candidate rebuffed

Philippine election officials challenged Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Wednesday to prove his allegation of irregularities in the counting of votes for vice-president, where he has been overtaken by his closest rival. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FBI head: Daesh brand losing attraction in U.S.

Fewer Americans are travelling to fight alongside Daesh and the power of the extremist group's brand has diminished in the United States, FBI director James Comey said Wednesday, with the number averaging about one a month since last summer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONARCHY

Chinese officials 'rude,' says the Queen

Queen Elizabeth II THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 90-year-old Queen has made a rare foray into political affairs, being caught on film characterizing Chinese officials as "very rude" in their dealings with British counterparts during a state visit last year.

Queen Elizabeth II made the unguarded comments Tuesday while talking to a senior police officer at a rain-soaked garden party on the grounds of Buckingham Palace.

With uncharacteristic bluntness the Queen said the Chinese had not dealt properly with Barbara Woodward, the British envoy to China.

"They were very rude to the ambassador," Elizabeth said.

The comments were recorded by a palace-authorized cameraman working for three British networks and distributed to broadcasters under a pool arrangement allowing them to use the material. Two reporters close to the queen did not hear the comments but they were easily discernible on the videotape.

Elizabeth's broadside was unusual. As a constitutional monarch, she is prohibited from being actively involved in politics. She has assiduously earned a reputation for great discretion, and it is completely out of character for her to publicly criticize another country's diplomats. If anything, she has been so careful to adhere strictly to her defined constitutional role that some commentators say they have no idea what she thinks about world affairs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Students in Thailand are using their smartwatches and glasses embedded with cameras as high-tech tools to help them cheat on exams. ISTOCK

THAILAND

Students use technology to cheat

Glasses with embedded cameras and smartwatches with stored information seem like regular spy equipment for the likes of James Bond, but for some students in Thailand, they are high-technology cheating devices.

Bangkok's Rangsit University cancelled its examinations on Saturday and Sunday for admission to its medical and dental faculties following the discovery of the unusual modus operandi by three female students.

While cheating has long been a problem in Thai schools and colleges, the use of high-tech gear — the cameras were used to take pictures of the test sheet and the smartwatches to receive answers from someone outside — has taken the practice to a whole new plane.

"We've never found cheating of this level — involving high-technology," university official Kittisak Tripipatpornchai said.

Cheating is a marked aberration in the list of good behaviour expected of Thais. From a young age, Thais are taught to be polite, tolerant, and respectful. But educators say cheating has flourished because of an education system that makes exam scores the only criterion for assessing a student's ability and granting admission into places of higher learning.

Cheating is so rampant that schools have tried to find creative ways to combat it. Chulalongkorn University installed overhead cameras in some of its examination rooms, while in 2013 Kasetsart University created anti-cheating hats made from stapling two A4 paper sheets to a headband to resemble blinders worn by horses.

Rangsit's president, Dr. Arthit Ourairat, posted pictures of the electronic devices on his Facebook page, getting nationwide attention from the media and the public.

"If you can't take responsibility for your own life, you don't deserve to become a doctor, which is a career that has to take responsibility for others' lives," wrote Namstok Punika, a Facebook user in response to Ourairat's pictures.

One student's parents met with university officials.

The father said he didn't know anything about the cheating, said Kittisak. "But then how would a high school student be able to pay 800,000 baht on their own?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google bans ads for payday loans

FINANCE

These types of lenders have been target of criticism

Internet giant Google said Wednesday it will ban all ads from payday lenders, calling the industry "deceptive" and "harmful."

Google's decision could have as much or even more impact on curtailing the industry than any move by politicians, as many payday loans start with a desperate person searching online for ways to make ends meet or cover an emergency.

Effective July 13, Google will no longer allow ads for loans due within 60 days and will also ban ads for loans where the interest rate is 36 per cent or higher. The industry will join Google's other banned categories of ads, such as counterfeit goods, weapons, explosives, tobacco products and hate speech.

"Our hope is that fewer people will be exposed to misleading or harmful products," said David Graff, Google's director of global product policy, in a blog post that announced the policy change.

Payday lenders have long been a target of criticism by politicians and consumer advocates, who argue the industry charges extremely high interest rates to customers, who are often the poor. Payday loans are often used to cover an unexpected expense or to make ends meet before the next paycheque. But for many borrowers, short-term loans wind up being difficult to pay off, leading to a cycle of debt that can drag on for months.

> "Our hope is that fewer people will be exposed to misleading or harmful products." David Graff

A 2012 study by Pew showed the average payday borrower is in debt for five months, spending $520 in fees and interest to repeatedly borrow $375. The annual per cent rate on a payday loan is 391 per cent, according to Pew.

"There is nothing fair about triple-digit interest rates being charged on loans to working families," said Keith Corbett, executive vice-president with the Center for Responsible Lending, in a statement. "Google is to be praised for doing its part to limit use of these abusive loans."

In response to critics, the payday lending industry has long argued it provides a necessary financial service to people in need of emergency funds.

"These policies are discriminatory and a form of censorship," said Amy Cantu, a spokeswoman with the Community Financial Centers Association of America, the trade group representing payday lenders.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook Moments in Canada

Facebook's private photo-sharing app Moments is now available in Europe and Canada, minus the facial recognition technology that comes with versions in the U.S. and other countries.

Instead of automatically identifying people in photos, the modified version — developed to skirt privacy regulations in these markets — groups together multiple photos that appear to include the same face. To do this, the app uses the less accurate object recognition technology, which may measure the distance between a person's eyes and ears to make suggestions.

Facebook Moments is the latest spin-off of the social networking site after Messenger.

The app is meant to help users share photos from an event like a wedding, night out or party, into a private place.

The app groups photos from the same event together, allowing users to access all the snaps in one place. Users can save photos taken by others and share them on Facebook as well. AFP

Facebook's photo-sharing app Moments now available in Canada and Europe. AFP

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, May 12, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON VOTING REFORM

Surely on a matter that affects the way Canada's electoral life is governed, voters should be able to expect that MPs be allowed to weigh in on an equal basis, regardless of partisan affiliation.

Among Justin Trudeau's commitments, few are as time-sensitive as his promise to have a new voting system in place for the 2019 federal election.

And so, as the weeks turned into months and eventually into more than half a year without any action from the incoming government, questions arose as to how committed the Liberals were to a promise they had made when they were twice removed from power.

Elections Canada needs about two years to have a new voting system up and running for the 2019 campaign. Presuming that the Liberals' promised electoral reform in good faith, only the search for a way to invest as much legitimacy as possible in the process could justify the delay.

Instead, on Thursday, the mountain gave birth to a mouse in the shape of a parliamentary committee that is special only in name. Its makeup replicates the very distortions that the Liberals claim to want to redress through electoral reform.

Like every other committee on Parliament Hill, it will feature a Liberal majority made up, in this case, of six government MPs with three Conservatives and one New Democrat rounding up the lot. The Bloc Québécois and the Green Party have been each assigned a seat, albeit at the equivalent of the children's table. Their respective representative will have no voting rights.

It is an open secret that more than a few Liberals would not be unhappy to see the entire electoral plan founder.

The latter is generous only by the standard of the parliamentary rule that denies official status and de facto committee spots to parties that fail to elect at least 12 MPs. But in the larger picture, the condescending Liberal approach to the place of the smaller parties in the electoral reform debate amounts to treating the 1.5 million Canadians who supported the Bloc and the Green Party last fall as second-tier voters.

Surely on a matter that affects the way Canada's electoral life is governed, voters should be able to expect that MPs be allowed to weigh in on an equal basis, regardless of partisan affiliation.

As if Liberal control of the committee was not enough, there is no commitment on the part of the government that it would use its majority to introduce a new voting system unilaterally and no pledge to submit the result to a plebiscite before implementing it.

Maryam Monsef, Minister of Democratic Institutions, and Dominic LeBlanc, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, announced Wednesday a House committee will study alternative voting systems. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

If only based on the calendar, there is no time to both bring a new voting system to a referendum and put it in place for the next federal election. A committee set up on the eve of the dead political season that is the Canadian summer will already have to take more than a few shortcuts if it is going to a) consult widely and b) come up with a recommendation in time for a Dec. 1 deadline.

Mind you, based on the recent experience of the MPs and senators who toiled diligently on the medically assisted death file only to see the thrust of their report ignored by the government, this committee could amount to little more than a make-work project designed to allow the Liberals to check an item off their bucket list.

There has for a long time been an implicit convention that in matters that pertain to the elections law, governments should strive to secure a consensus that extends beyond their own ranks.

Yes, the Conservatives broke that convention when they last overhauled the election law. But the Liberals promised to do better. Their actions on the electoral reform front so far fall short of that commitment.

Where legitimacy should have been striven for, opposition suspicions that the Liberals want to use this process to either give their party a permanent electoral edge or more simply to sabotage it have instead been reinforced.

It is an open secret that more than a few Liberals would not be unhappy to see the entire electoral plan founder — as long as they could blame someone else for it.

Looking at how Trudeau has stacked the electoral reform deck, a cynic could conclude that his bid to move to a different voting system is programmed to fail if not in the Liberal-controlled House of Commons, then in a Senate conveniently once-removed from the government.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Finally, we hear that famous Ghomeshi voice again

Finally, he spoke.

After 18 months of near-perfect silence, we heard that voice. Still full-bodied and low-toned. Still strong — projecting to the judge and behind him to the benches of reporters and his ever-present mother and sister.

It was Jian Ghomeshi, yes. But that voice, once his golden ticket, was used in a way we haven't heard before: In an apology.

At 10:09 a.m. on Wednesday morning, Ghomeshi stood in a half-filled courtroom at Toronto's Old City Hall to comply with the key component of the peace bond that cut short a second trial for a single charge of sexual assault and provided this swift, preemptive end to his legal woes. He said sorry to Kathryn Borel, once a producer on Q, his CBC radio show.

"I want to apologize to Ms. Borel for my behaviour towards her in the workplace," he began, his voice unmistakable.

Except now, in place of the come-hither croon, Ghomeshi gave carefully constructed distance. He used the impersonal diction of a disgraced politician ("I did not recognize that I crossed boundaries inappropriately"). He read the words, but without feeling.

And he spoke swiftly, like a man on a mission. Which he was. The statement led to the withdrawal of the final criminal charges against him and an end to the headlines and the kind of life where one of your closest confidantes is your lawyer.

There was only a vague reference to the specific incident — that he came up behind Borel at work and "held her waist and pressed his pelvis back and forth, repeatedly into her buttocks," to quote the Crown.

"This incident was thoughtless and I was insensitive," Ghomeshi said.

A letter submitted to court from Ghomeshi's therapist commended his "great commitment and focus" to understanding his behaviour. It was intended to underline his sincerity, but that's a hard thing to prove when Ghomeshi gets so much for seemingly so little: Legally, his apology holds no weight of guilt. Precise and clearly rehearsed, it also functions as a coming-out for the man who was once defined by his ubiquitous celebrity.

Still, for Borel, it offered the "clearest path to the truth."

And it was she who had the last word of the day.

"There are 20 other women who have come forward to the media and made serious allegations about his violent behaviour," she said outside the courthouse. "I think we all want this to be over. But it won't be until he admits to everything that he's done."

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It's OK to be a nervous weirdo

HOT DOG TASTE TEST

Lisa Hanawalt's confessional comics a peek into her anxiety

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Lisa Hanawalt. CONTRIBUTED

When cartoonist Lisa Hanawalt was a kid, she took riding lessons, which turned her already fanatical love of horses into a lifelong obsession. "It was something I glommed onto and couldn't shake it," she says. "I tried to."

Hanawalt's equine friends pop up throughout all her work, most famously in the characters she designed for Netflix's first animated series, the cult-favourite BoJack Horseman, starring Will Arnett as the voice of a boozy, has-been sitcom star. Her new comics collection, Hot Dog Taste Test, published by Drawn & Quarterly, gathers many of Hanawalt's favourite things — anthropomorphized creatures with often gross human foibles and desires, food diaries and lists, interspersed with just the right amount of scatological humour. Many of the illustrated stories first appeared in David Chang's trendy food-culture magazine, Lucky Peach, including her first-hand account of shadowing chef Wylie Dufresne for a day (referring to the tasty stuffing inside his ravioli dish as "sex cheese"), for which the Los Angeles-based artist won a James Beard Award.

Unlike horses, food was not an obsession for young Hanawalt. A self-described finicky eater who preferred plain mashed potatoes, she is now a fearless connoisseur, willing to try anything from spicy pigeon to viscachas, a pickled rodent meat she purchased in jars while visiting Argentina. Food as a theme gives Hanawalt plenty of material, too. "I can really explore the outer edges of what is even tangentially related to food because it's such an important aspect of life," she says. "Sleep, work, food, sex. It gives me a lot of room to play."

Hanawalt, who is a special guest at this weekend's Toronto Comic Arts Festival, is one of those gifted creative types who can write and draw equally well, and has a seemingly endless fount of productive energy, although she says she often goes to bed feeling like she hasn't accomplished enough. (She also hosts a popular podcast, Baby Geniuses, with her friend, comedian Emily Heller.)

Her work often starts with ideas she's jotted down or with some absentminded doodles from her sketchbook. She claims that she can take on an impulsive "manic persona" when she's drawing.

"It's like a wild person," she says with a laugh.

While there are no shortage of sly gags, Hot Dog Taste Test also features several sentimental stories, with Hanawalt confessing anxieties over family matters, travel fears, social relations — often times told through the voices of her wildlife characters. While Hanawalt enjoys reading confessional, diary comics, she's never been comfortable making them, and so it forces her to try to understand why she needs to share certain feelings with the world.

"Maybe it's that I just want to reach out to the reader and say, Hey, are you like a nervous weirdo, too? It's OK, we'll get through this. It's OK to have these thoughts and feel uncomfortable. And it's me telling myself that, too."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Food as a theme gives Lisa Hanawalt plenty of humour and storytelling material in her latest book Hot Dog Taste Test. CONTRIBUTED

The trouble with capitalism

RICH AND POOR

New novel is a parable of corporate culture

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

"My spare room funds my expeditions," states an outdoor adventurer named Jeff in a new Airbnb billboard near the foot of Yonge Street in Toronto. It's part of the company's first major ad campaign in Canada as so-called disruptive American businesses gain a foothold here.

While the sharing economy is praised by self-described hustlers for allowing us all to become entrepreneurs, author Jacob Wren sees it as a troubling form of "turbo capitalism," forcing us to monetize all aspects of our lives — our homes, cars, and friendships.

"You used to just be able to live in your home but now you have to rent it out every time you leave in order to survive," says Wren, 44, who lives in Montreal.

Wren's new novel, Rich and Poor (Bookthug, $20), is more than a critique of capitalism and profit-obsessed society.

It's a parable examining corporate culture — the way it makes us calculating, unscrupulous and ultimately disposable. Even the billionaire executive realizes "no matter how talented, qualified or indispensable I think I might be, there's always someone else who can do the job."

Inspired by the discourse started by the Occupy movement, Wren says he's intrigued by the discussion caused by the popular protest, and more recently the Panama Papers.

"I remember before Occupy talking to some not particularly 'left' friends, and them all saying shut up about capitalism, no one talks about that anymore," says Wren.

"As Occupy was bringing questions of wealth and inequality into the public and creating new terms like The One Per Cent, suddenly the same people were willing to talk about capitalism and think about what it is and think about how much money is actually being hoarded in offshore accounts."

Wren says these are important issues for his generation, which is said to have less money and fewer opportunities than their parents.

The two main narrators are only known to the reader as No. 1 — the billionaire — and No. 2, a talented pianist who now washes dishes for a living.

No. 2 seeks revenge for the way life has betrayed him, and so he decides that "The poor must kill the rich, one at a time, at every opportunity." He wants to strangle No. 1 with piano wire, and set an example for others to imitate.

Wren read popular business books and CEO biographies to help develop character No. 1, a brilliant executive who memorizes all his employees names and is unusually candid about his company's misconduct.

He says it was a pleasure to write from this perspective, though he admits the mashup is not going to be recognizable as any single person, either living or in popular culture.

"I don't think any actual capitalist will think I've gotten them right," says Wren. "It's a very biased, playful mischievous take on that kind of character, and that kind of larger-than-life figure who rejoices in being a capitalist and also is willing to admit all the problems of it," he says.

In many ways, Rich and Poor is a parody of the typical capitalist villain, says Wren.

For instance, No. 1 considers finding another "trophy wife" but at his age decides it's in bad taste, instead opting for a prostitute because he sees a "pure economic transaction" as "the most clean, the most precise method of fulfilling desires and needs."

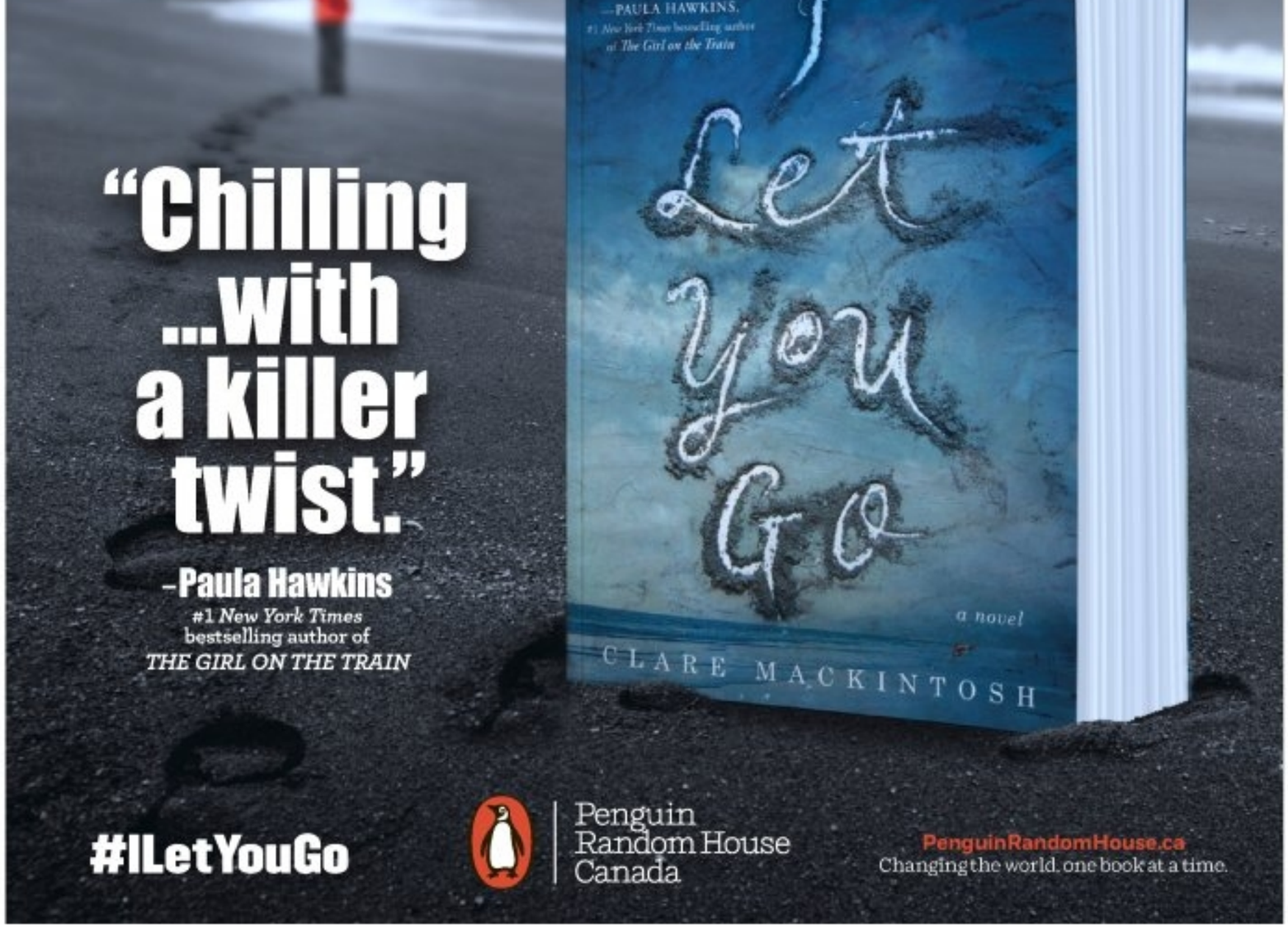
If there's commonality between the two narrators, it's in the way both seem unable to maintain relationships and their dysfunctional view on friendship.

No. 2 defines a friend as someone who can "betray you more savagely, more painfully, than anyone else in the world." For this reason, he seeks imitators, not friends.

Meanwhile, No. 1 stabs his best friend in the back to save himself.

"We could say this is kind of the ultimate capitalist manoeuver — to keep your wealth by betraying those closest to you," says Wren.

Jacob Wren, 44, author of Rich and Poor. CONTRIBUTED



BOOKS

Stories from the North

Arctic Comics
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Mike Donachie
For Metro Canada

Look north for something different in graphic storytelling, and look to Arctic Comics, an intriguing anthology from Calgary publisher Renegade.

It draws together stories from the north, by Inuit and northern Canadians, and the content varies from laughs to mythology. There's a tale of baseball and love, one-page gags about snow, futuristic adventure with an environmental theme and more.

Winnipeg's Nicholas Burns, who edits this book, has led Arctic Comics' incarnations since Expo 86, and contributes much of the writing. Also notable is the writing of the late Joe Kusugak on Kiviuq vs Big Bee, a beautiful story from Inuit legend that includes the wonderful lines: "Look in the pot. Nothing but eyelids."

Renegade's output is high-quality stuff – the horror adventure series Dept. of Monsterology is especially fun – but it's so pleasing to see them support Arctic Comics. All credit to everyone involved.

Dance or sing if you want to, but leave the politics behind

CENSORSHIP

Eurovision is strict with its stance against statements

You can croon about unrequited love, dance with unbridled passion or dress up in drag. Just keep politics out of it.

Organizers of the Eurovision Song Contest say the annual kitsch-fest, which is watched by almost 200 million people in dozens of countries, is about having a good time, not making political statements. Yet it didn't take long for someone to break the no-politics rule at this year's competition in Stockholm.

At Tuesday's semifinal, the first of two leading up the grand final on Saturday, Armenian singer Iveta Mukuchyan waved the flag of Nagorno-Karabakh, a separatist region that is officially part of Azerbaijan but currently under the control of local ethnic Armenian forces.

"I just want peace on our borders," Mukuchyan said at a news conference after the show.

The European Broadcasting Union, the alliance of public service broadcasters behind the show, said it would discuss the flag-waving with Armenia's delegation.

"Given the ongoing tensions and instability in the region this may be perceived as a political gesture," the group said in a statement.

In the run-up to this year's contest, the EBU warned both performers and fans not to use flags as political tools.

The general rule is only the national flags of participating nations and other full members of the U.N. are allowed. Two non-national flags are exempt — the star-studded banner of the European Union and the rainbow gay pride flag — as long as they are not displayed in a political way.

"It's how you wave the flag and when you wave the flag and how many flags are waved at the same time," EBU spokesman Dave Goodman said.

At last year's even, the rainbow flag was waved with particular intensity during Russia's act, an apparent statement against the country's views on gay rights.

Eurovision officials were embarrassed when an internal document with examples of banned flags was published online by accident ahead of this year's event. It included the Basque, Kosovar, Palestinian and other flags as well as the black banner of the Islamic State group.

Some fans took offence at their regions and territories being mentioned in the same context as militant extremists, and contest officials quickly apologized, saying they weren't making any comparisons. "It was merely for guidance," Goodman said.

But that backlash didn't stop.

Joe Woolford, one half of Britain's entry Joe and Jake, is Welsh. Norway is represented by Agnete Johnsen, who has indigenous Sami roots. Their fans demanded the right to wave the Welsh and Sami flags to support them.

Last week the EBU agreed to relax the flag policy "to allow national, regional and local flags of the participants." It also promised "a more tolerant approach to other flags as long as the audience respects the nonpolitical nature of the Eurovision Song Contest." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Armenia's Iveta Mukuchyan performs LoveWave during the first Eurovision Song Contest semifinal in Stockholm, Sweden, Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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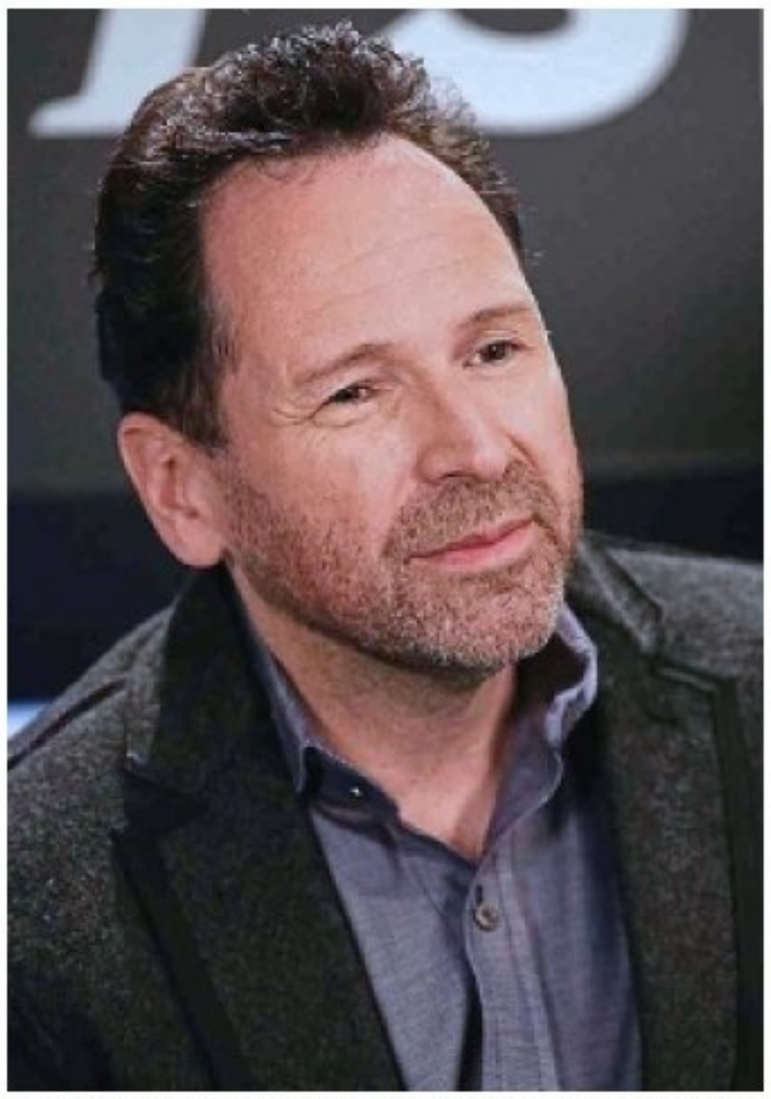
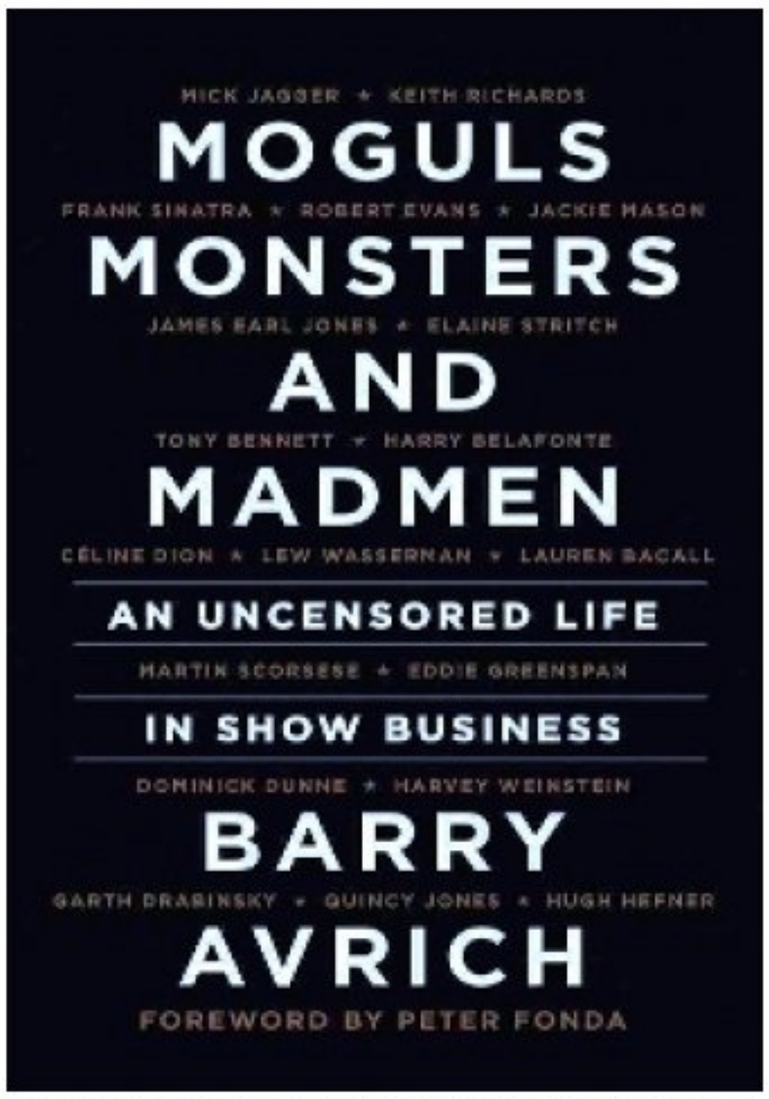
Barry Avrich dishes up dirt in Hollywood memoir





Barry Avrich says that Harvey Weinstein put many obstacles in his path while making the doc Unauthorized: The Harvey Weinstein Project. GETTY IMAGES

SCANDALS

Weinstein decries Factory Girl sex scene anecdote

Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein has done adman-turned-filmmaker Barry Avrich a huge favour.

When Avrich's new memoir, Moguls, Monsters and Madmen, came out this month, Weinstein (one of Hollywood's most powerful men as co-chair of the Weinstein Company and former head of Miramax Films), issued a statement decrying one of the anecdotes in the book.

"Since Harvey made the statement, I've done 30 interviews and the story has gone from London to Kabul because Harvey is big news. It's amazing," Avrich said in an interview.

(Weinstein specifically objected to a story about his instructions regarding a sex scene in the film, Factory Girl.)

Part of the book chronicles the various obstacles Weinstein threw in Avrich's path on the way to making a film about the movie mogul, including warning people not to talk.

The 2011 film is aptly titled Unauthorized: The Harvey Weinstein Project.

"He (Weinstein) has shone a light on Unauthorized, which never got seen in the U.S., and hopefully created a demand for the film and hopefully, for the book," Avrich added.

While the film was seen "intact and beautifully unedited" when it was shown in Canada, the U.S. rights were bought by a company called IFC Films, which made major edits and ensured through a lacklustre distribution effort that it went largely unseen by audiences there. Avrich noted IFC Films and Weinstein had a "long relationship."

"I believe that Harvey was, at the end of the day, impressed that I got the film made," Avrich said, adding that Weinstein still returns his emails promptly and even gave him advance warning he planned to issue a statement.

Avrich has tackled other subjects for films who were also strongly opposed, including disgraced former theatrical and film producer Garth Drabinsky, and late Hollywood talent agent and studio executive Lew Wasserman.

Others like concert promoter Michael Cohl and late criminal attorney Eddie Greenspan were more amenable, though comedian-turned-director David Steinberg proved to be difficult.

"I start off the exercise for a film that is about somebody that I've always wanted to meet, that's number one. Number two, it's (got) to have some commercial value because I'm not interested in making a film about the gestation period of a beaver that five people are going to see," Avrich said.

"Thirdly, I want my films to be provocative and sometimes it's about somebody that is scandalous, somebody that has had that larger than life career and quite often, it's about people that don't want the publicity," he said.

Avrich's next project is about Montreal's Bronfman family, a dynasty founded on a fortune made bootlegging during Prohibition before grandson Edgar Bronfman Jr. made a costly and unsuccessful foray years later into Hollywood through companies like MCA and Universal Pictures.

"I think that's a story that Canadians need to hear and if you love Hollywood, you're going to love it, too. It's three generations from bootlegging to Hollywood, it's got it all," Avrich said.

"It's three generations of the rise and fall of one of the greatest iconic family names (in Canada)," he added.

The book also chronicles Avrich's encounters with various Hollywood legends, such as Frank Sinatra and Lauren Bacall.

Dealing with celebrities is surprisingly simple, Avrich said, just treat them as people.

"If you go in like an autograph seeker, then there's not going to be any connection," Avrich said.

> **The story has gone from London to Kabul because Harvey is big news.** Barry Avrich on Harvey Weinstein taking issue with an anecdote in his memoir

"If you relate to (stars) in a way that they understand what you're looking for and you're a professional and you've done your research, I think they're all fabulous people, (though) some are more difficult than others," he added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Doctor saw Prince a day before death

INVESTIGATION

Physician gave musician an undisclosed prescription

A Minnesota doctor questioned by investigators in Prince's death is an experienced family care physician who worked for a Minneapolis-area health care system until recently.

A search warrant revealed Tuesday that Dr. Michael Todd Schulenberg, 46, treated Prince on April 7 and April 20 and prescribed him medications, though it didn't specify which or say whether Prince took them. Prince was found dead April 21 in his suburban Minneapolis home.

A law enforcement official has told The Associated Press that investigators are looking into whether Prince died from an overdose and whether a doctor was prescribing him drugs in the weeks before his death. The law enforcement official has been briefed on the investigation and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Investigators interviewed Schulenberg and searched a suburban Minneapolis hospital where he worked, according to the warrant.

No one answered the door Wednesday at the Schulenberg home in Excelsior, a southwestern Minneapolis suburb just a few minutes' drive from Prince's Paisley Park compound. The blinds were drawn and the two-story house was dark, though a ceiling fan could be seen revolving inside.

Several neighbours either declined to comment on Schulenberg or said the development was new and that they didn't know the doctor.

Schulenberg was a primary care physician for North Memorial Medical Center until at least April 21, but he has since left the job. Lesa Bader, a spokeswoman for the health care system, said personnel records are private and she couldn't comment on why Schulenberg no longer works at their Minnetonka clinic. She said she also couldn't discuss any of his previous patients.

Items left by fans at a memorial for musician Prince hang from a fence outside Paisley Park, Wednesday. Minn. A Minnesota doctor saw Prince twice in the month before his death — including the day before he died — and prescribed him medication, according to contents of a search warrant that were revealed Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Schulenberg is the second doctor whose name has surfaced in the investigation. Last week, a lawyer for California addiction specialist Dr. Howard Kornfeld told reporters that Prince's representatives had contacted Kornfeld seeking help April 20, the day before the superstar was found dead.

Kornfeld was not able to immediately fly to Minnesota so he sent his son on his behalf. Andrew Kornfeld was carrying a small amount of the prescription drug buprenorphine. Mauzy said Andrew Kornfeld planned to give that drug to a Minnesota doctor who was scheduled to see Prince.

Schulenberg's name does not appear on a list of Minnesota doctors authorized to treat opioid dependency with the drug buprenorphine, according to a database maintained by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Buprenorphine, also known by its brand name Suboxone, is a medication that helps control drug cravings and withdrawal symptoms. To be certified, doctors are required to undergo an eight-hour training course in addiction medicine.

Schulenberg earned his MBA in health care in 2011 from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. In a 2012 YouTube video posted by the university, Schulenberg said he was then part of the "leadership group" at Ridgeview Medical Center in Carver County and said his job required him to put in demanding hours.

"As a full-time family physician, that probably demands about 50 hours a week," he said in the video. "I still deliver babies, so I can be called in on an unexpected basis and there goes my evening." Schulenberg described himself in the video as a father of five.

Lisa Steinbauer, a spokeswoman for Ridgeview, said Schulenberg left the health care system in August of 2014. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donald Sutherland taps his inner comic at Cannes

Vanessa Paradis and Donald Sutherland, both members of the Palme jury, attend the jury press conference at Cannes on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

FILM FESTIVAL

Actor cracks jokes about his Canadian identity

Veteran Canadian actor Donald Sutherland made light of his birth country's national identity obsessions Wednesday, at the start of the Cannes Film Festival, where he will help determine the 2016 Palme d'Or prize winner.

In doing so, he immediately established himself as the irascible wit on the nine-member Palme jury led by Mad Max director George Miller, winning huge laughs from the assembled international media. He also grumpily complained about the "freezing" air conditioning in the press room of the Palais des Festivals.

"I kind of gave up talking about Canadian cinema a long time ago," said the New Brunswick-born Sutherland, 80, when asked by a Canadian journalist to give his thoughts about that very topic at a news conference to introduce this year's main festival jury.

Although he's best known as a Hollywood actor, recently playing authoritarian President Coriolanus Snow in The Hunger Games blockbuster franchise, Sutherland has a long history with Canadian movies.

He played heroic wartime physician Dr. Norman Bethune in Bethune: The Making of a Hero in 1990 and the same role 13 years earlier in Bethune, a made-for-TV film.

Sutherland suddenly felt moved to elaborate at length on why he's tired of talking about Canadian film and Canadian identity.

"There's a very famous story of a British soldier and a French soldier and a Canadian soldier who were captured in the process of the war and were sentenced to be shot by firing squad. But they were each given an opportunity to have a last wish," Sutherland said, measuring each word for dramatic effect.

"So the Brit asked for a cup of tea. The Canadian asked for 15 minutes to talk about Canadian identity . . ." Sutherland said, pausing for loud laughter from the room.

"And the Frenchman asked to be shot before the Canadian!"

Even louder laughter ensued.

Earlier Sutherland had answered a flat "no" to a question about whether he had any thoughts on what makes a Palme-worthy film — he starred in M*A*S*H, which won the top prize here in 1970 — and whether he was daunted by the prospect of judging a film made by a fellow Canadian.

It's Only the End of the World, by Montreal's Xavier Dolan, is one of the 20 movies in contention for the Palme d'Or, or Golden Palm, which will be handed out at the festival's end on May 22.

"No . . . but I can tell you that I'm freezing up here!" Sutherland complained.

The snowy-coiffed and bearded actor is the liveliest member of a Palme panel that Miller referred to as "a nine-headed beast," one the Aussie helmer promised would make deliberations with serious intent and a true love of cinema.

Other members of the international jury are: actor Kirsten Dunst (U.S.); actor Mads Mikkelsen (Denmark); actor/singer Vanessa Paradis (France); actress/director/writer/ producer Valeria Golino (Italy); writer/director Arnaud Desplechin (France); writer/director Laszlo Nemes (Hungary); and producer Katayoon Shahabi (Iran).

Sutherland also had an amusing and bizarre story about the perennial question of whether it's fair to judge one film against another in a competition.

He didn't really answer the question, but he also got big laughs for his response.

Set in 1936, the likely apocryphal story concerns then-Chinese foreign minister Zhou Enlai sitting on a long airplane ride next to an unnamed U.S. sergeant major.

"The sergeant major asked Zhou Enlai what he thought was the effect of the French Revolution," Sutherland recounted.

"Zhou Enlai said, 'It's too soon to tell!'"

The story left Sutherland's other jury members looking a little perplexed, but then Mikkelsen piped in, "I was just about to say exactly the same thing!"

Others at Cannes haven't been quite so cryptic on this topic.

At his news conference earlier for Café Society, the festival's opening-night gala world premiere, director Woody Allen said he refuses to take part in the Palme competition because, "I don't believe in competition for artistic things . . . to be in competition would be against my common sense."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **I kind of gave up talking about Canadian cinema a long time ago**
> Donald Sutherland on his thoughts about Canadian film

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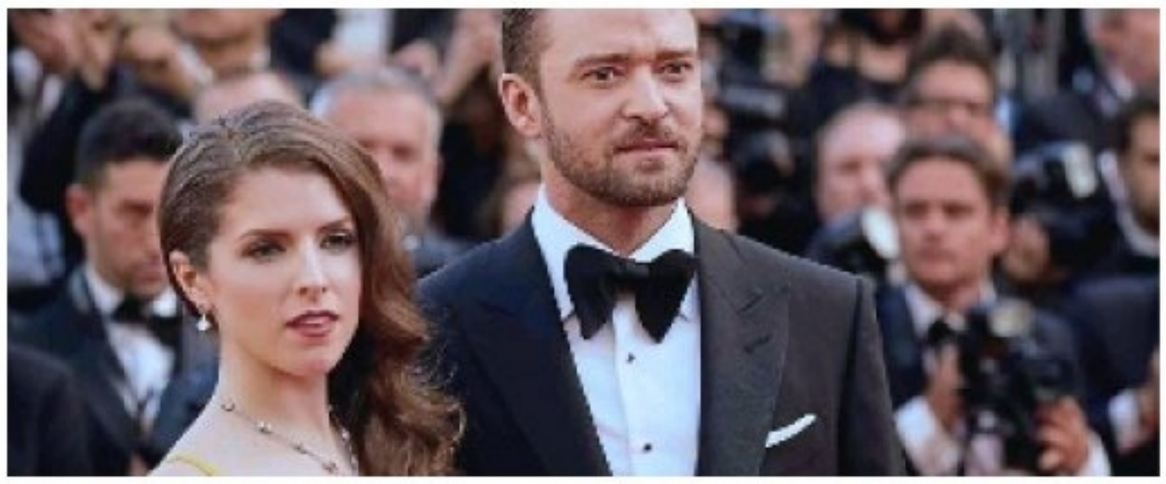
Timberlake, Kendrick and a guitar



Anna Kendrick and Justin Timberlake attend the 'Cafe Society' premiere and the Opening Night Gala during the 69th annual Cannes Film Festival Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

CANNES

Trolls stars showcase song to promote the upcoming film

"Anna and Garfunkel" is how Justin Timberlake introduced himself and Anna Kendrick for an acoustic performance of Cindi Lauper's "True Colors" at the Cannes Film Festival.

The pair was in Cannes on Wednesday to promote the DreamWorks Animation release Trolls, for which they voice the main characters. Timberlake is also executive producer of the soundtrack, including original songs by him.

After previewing footage for the film, DreamWorks chief Jeffrey Katzenberg introduced the duo, who strode out on the stage with Timberlake bearing an acoustic guitar.

Katzenberg has long been an annual presence at Cannes but that may be at an end. Last month he sold the studio to Comcast for $3.8 billion, a sale expected close by the end of the year. Trolls is due in November.

Cannes is just the first stop on Timberlake's European trip. He will perform his hit single "Can't Stop the Feeling" on Saturday in Stockholm as part of the Eurovision contest — rare territory for American pop stars of his calibre.

"I'm excited. They asked and said 'No one has ever really gone over and done it other than people that are in the competition.' And I said 'Well, let's do it,"' Timberlake said after the "Trolls" performance. "So, it'll be fun. It's like crazy right? It's like a crazy competition. I'm actually looking forward to how big it is."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CONDOS

Blake Lively, director Woody Allen and Kristen Stewart attend the Cafe Society premiere during The 69th Annual Cannes Film Festival on Wednesday. Allen said he'd consider shaking things up with his typical storylines if he had a good idea. GETTY IMAGES

Don't expect a change of script from Allen yet

FILM

May-December romance trope unlikely to see a gender switch

Woody Allen says he'll make a movie about a younger man falling in love with an older woman, rather than his usual habit of the other way around, if he ever comes up with a "good idea" for one.

But the 80-year-old writer/director held out no hope of that happening anytime soon, as he met international press at the Cannes Film Festival following Wednesday's gala world premiere of Café Society.

The film is his 46th feature as a director and his third to open the festival.

It stars Kristen Stewart, 26, as a Hollywood beauty of the 1930s who falls for a high-powered Hollywood agent played by Steve Carell, 53.

The film's plot turns have Stewart's character falling in love at the same time with a character played by Jesse Eisenberg, 32, in an offering viewed by most critics here as a fair-to-middling Allen effort.

Café Society is yet another Woody Allen movie where a significantly younger woman falls for an older man, something that happened in his 2015 Cannes debut Irrational Man and also in real life for him.

Allen is married to 45-year-old Soon-Yi Previn, whom Allen used to call his adopted step-daughter (with ex-partner Mia Farrow) before he and Previn caused a scandal by marrying in 1997.

A British journalist asked Allen if he ever considered shaking up his familiar story line by making a woman the older romantic partner to a younger male.

"I wouldn't hesitate to do that if I had a good idea," Allen responded, at a press conference where he was flanked by Café Society actors Stewart and Eisenberg, along with fellow cast members Blake Lively and Corey Stoll plus cinematographer Vittorio Storaro. (Steve Carell isn't in Cannes, likely due to the death of his mother this past weekend.)

> **I wouldn't hesitate to do that if I had a good idea.**
>
> Woody Allen, on if he'd ever make a film with a woman as the older romantic partner to a younger man

But it's ill advised to hold your breath waiting for a gender-switching May-December romance film from the director.

"It's not a commonly seen thing and I don't have a lot of experience to draw on for material," Allen said — although he added that when he was 30, he "had a crush" on a married woman in her 50s.

Nothing came of the infatuation, he said.

The discussion was the closest Allen came to addressing a potential elephant in the room, one dropped in Wednesday's Cannes edition of The Hollywood Reporter.

The trade magazine carried a guest column from Ronan Farrow, Allen's estranged adult son.

The column took the journal to task for its recent cover story on Allen, which didn't delve into long-simmering allegations of sexual abuse by Allen against Farrow's sister Dylan, when she was a young girl.

No charges were ever filed against Allen, who has strenuously denied the abuse claims, but Ronan Farrow contends in his THR soapbox that journalists are honour-bound to pursue the matter.

A judge in the child custody case between Allen and Mia Farrow described Allen's behaviour towards Dylan as "grossly inappropriate and that measures must be taken to protect her."

But the issue never came up at the brief press conference, which started 10 minutes late and wrapped up after only a handful of questions from the press.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Oki Sato's design firm presented a movement-themed collection in New York

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This inner-city southeast community is just minutes from downtown. Albert Park offers access to all major traffic corridors including Deerfoot Trail, Memorial Drive and more. With Franklin LRT station just minutes away and several local bus routes, the location is very accessible.

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Albert Park Station will rise between 12 Ave. and 14 Ave. at 27 St. S.E., adjacent to a playground and outdoor skating rink. All of the necessary amenities are nearby including shopping, dining, schools and playgrounds.

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Adding a tropical punch this season

1 Texture

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Furnishings and accessories made of tropical plant and tree fibers started to appear in the fall, in modern vintage and midcentury pieces. That trend has expanded for spring and summer to wall coverings, textiles and rugs printed with imagery drawn from the jungle, beach and rainforest.

TEXT AND IMAGES BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 Prints and soft touches

A palm-printed pillow can freshen a sofa or chair. You'll find a collection of throw pillows and shower curtains with big, bold palm-leaf prints at H&M Home. "There can be an element of late '70s/early '80s kitsch to it," says Joss & Main's style director Donna Garlough. "I recently watched a rerun of 'Golden Girls' and laughed my head off over all the tropical elements on that set that have come back into vogue, from the rattan furniture to the macrame plant hangers. Blanche even had that famous palm wallpaper in her bedroom."

Playful toucans peek out from behind bamboo branches on a whimsical, tropical print throw pillow from H & M Home. A vintage style palm leaf print graces a chic throw pillow from H&M Home. handm.com

3 Playful

Overstock.com has Tommy Bahama's Tropical Hibiscus throw pillow and a chic white pineapple table lamp. Flamingo-printed sheets bring the theme into the bedroom, and the pink bird struts across a preppy-striped rug.

Bedding with a fun flamingo print is shown and is an easy way to introduce tropical decor.

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Anyone interested in submitting an offer to purchase any or all of the lands described above should contact Lexy R. Wong as set out below to obtain an offer package which will contain additional information about the lands and the terms and conditions which the Estate may consider when reviewing the offers.

All offers shall be submitted in writing in the form provided in the offer package and delivered no later than 12:00 p.m. MST (noon) on June 20, 2016 to the following:

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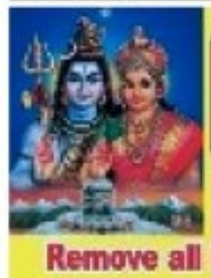

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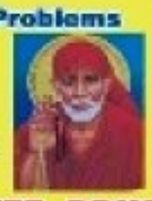

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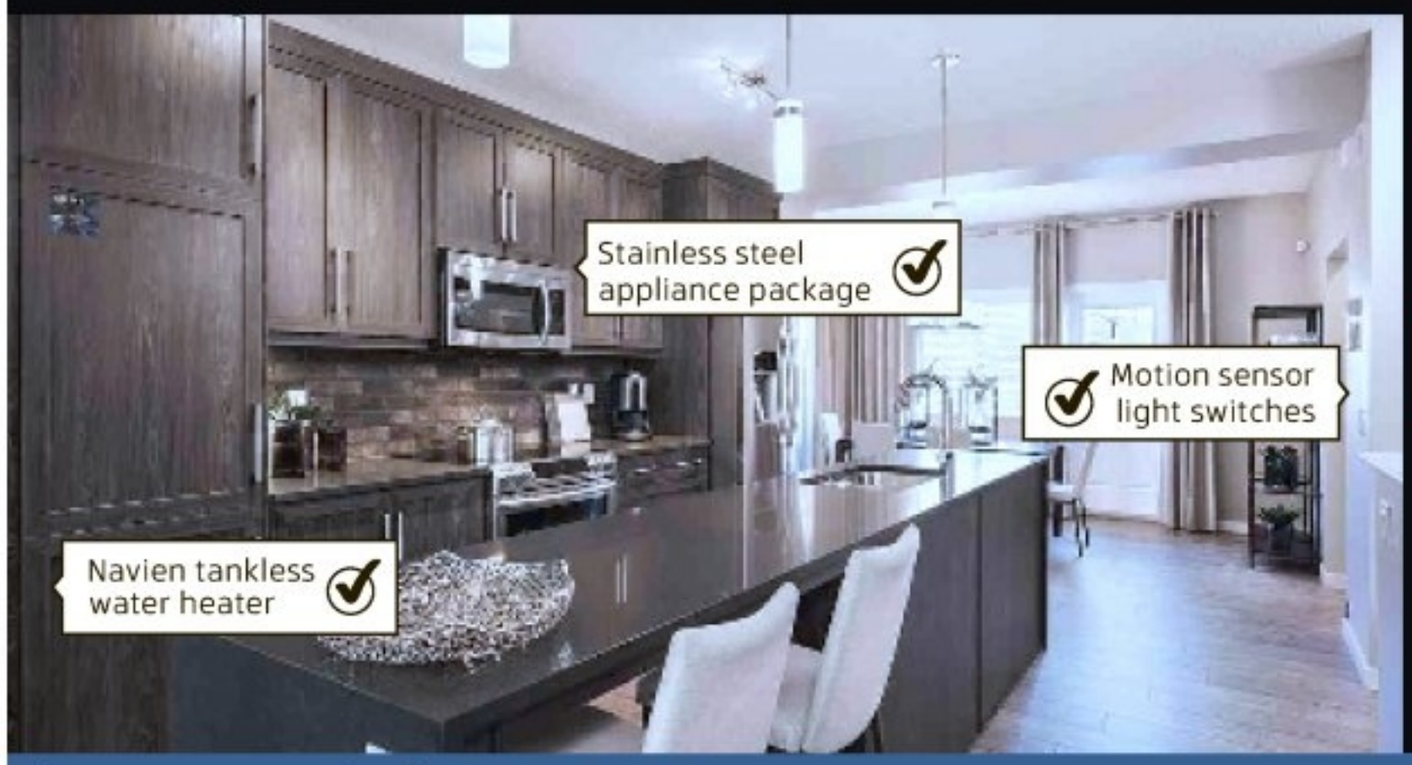

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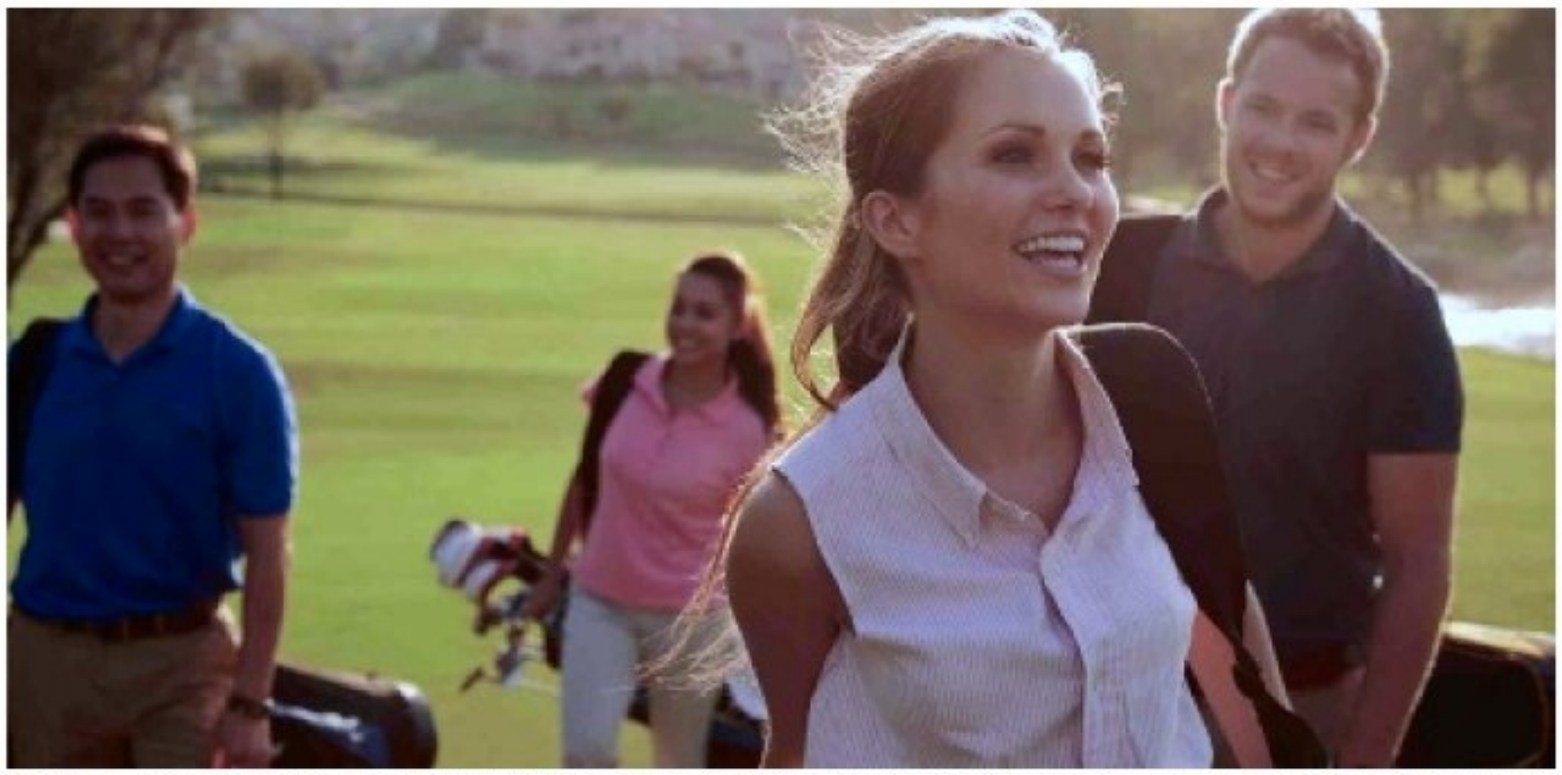
Playing golf offers many health benefits

Richard Woodbury



Carrying your own clubs and socializing with others are just two of the ways getting out on a course is good for golfers. ISTOCK

With an 18-hole round of golf taking somewhere between four and five hours to play, one of the charms of playing golf is that the experience isn't rushed.

The myriad of health benefits is another bonus.

"There are quite a few of them," said Lori Dithurbide, an assistant professor in kinesiology at Dalhousie University and a golfer herself.

Some of the physical benefits are the calories burned, especially given how long it takes to play a round. The very act of swinging a club will help enhance strength and flexibility, so there are health benefits for people who are only riding power carts when playing, says Dithurbide.

She says for golfers who are carrying, pushing or pulling their clubs, they will burn more calories.

Another benefit is the sport is relatively low risk in terms of injury, says Dithurbide.

Playing golf is also good for the mind. This is in part because people tend to socialize with others when they play. "We know people who are more engaged and more social tend to be more healthy overall," said Dithurbide.

As well, golfing requires making active use of the mind. The game requires a lot of strategy as players constantly evaluate things such as their lie, wind speed and direction, and hazards on the course.

"You're problem solving pretty much the entire round," said Dithurbide.

The impact playing golf has on one's health was looked at in a 2009 Swedish study published in the Scandinavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports.

The study found that after adjusting for socioeconomic status, Swedish golfers had death rates that were about 40 per cent lower than that of the general population. This finding held true regardless of gender or age.

"To put the observed mortality reduction in context, it may be noted that a 40 per cent reduction of mortality rates corresponds to an increase in life expectancy of about five years," said the study.

The study was conducted by the Karolinska Institutet, a Swedish medical university.

Interestingly, the study found that golfers with the lowest handicap rates had the lowest death rates.

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2016-1014

FORT MCMURRAY

Club caught in wildfire

Among buildings damaged or destroyed due to the ongoing wildfire is the clubhouse at the Fort McMurray Golf and Country Club, one of the most challenging and beautiful courses in the province. There is extensive infrastructure damage, but as yet the full impact of the disaster will not be calculated until staff and owners are allowed to return.

In the meantime, Alberta Golf released a statement thanking all those who have offered assistance. "For now, our thoughts are with our many staff members, the community of Fort McMurray, and the tireless and brave workers who are fighting to protect our city."

Everyone was evacuated and all are accounted for. There are no injuries reported, the statement says.

Information is still being gathered on how the golf industry can support Fort McMurray and the affected golf courses in the long term. Phil Berube, CEO for Alberta Golf, says stakeholders are corresponding and a special meeting has been called for late May but all are suggesting donations to the Red Cross.

WILL MCGUIRK

A vivid mental image can help you hit that perfect shot. ISTOCK

Visualize your way to a better golf game

Even if you can't find time to play or practice, it's possible to "visualize" your way to better golf scores.

Research by scientists and behavioral psychologists has shown that creating a mental image of something you want to accomplish — like a drive down the heart of the fairway — and repeating that image over and over again, sends the same electrical impulses or instructions to the muscles as actually carrying it out.

Almost everyone has hit shots even a professional might envy. By recalling these positive mental images, you're reminded that there's nothing stopping you from doing it again. Some scientists believe that mental rehearsal creates the neural pathways necessary for actual performance. The brain and body work together to create a successful result.

Learning to apply the same visualization techniques and mental discipline on the golf course is an even more certain path to lower scores.

Jack Nicklaus, the greatest golfer of all, says he never hits a shot without having a vivid mental image of it in his head.

"It's like a colour movie," he says. "First, I 'see' the ball where I want it to finish, nice and high and sitting up on the bright green grass. Then the scene quickly changes and I 'see' the ball going there: its path, trajectory and shape, even its behavior on landing."

BRIAN KENDALL

STAR METRO MEDIA THIS SPECIAL REPORT WAS CREATED BY CONTENT SOLUTIONS, INDEPENDENT OF METRO EDITORIAL.

Mickelson flexes for new course

MODERN GOLF

The Masters champ's design for both beginners and experts alike

Will McGuirk

Being flexible is good for your health and for your game. Flexibility is also a healthy part of modern golf course design. Masters champion Phil Mickelson has designed a course so flexible it's practically a yoga instructor.

The Mickelson National golf course is scheduled to open in 2018. It lies at the centre of the Harmony Community development in west Calgary and is Mickelson's first signature course. Barry Ehlert, managing partner and owner of the Calgary-based Windmill Group, says the course is designed for the beginner, for the PGA star, and players of all ability levels. It is also very family-friendly.

The Mickelson National golf course is scheduled to open in 2018 in west Calgary. CONTRIBUTED

"We have two-hole loops, three-hole loops, six-hole loops, some of those you play and can come right back. You can play them in reverse; they're built like a secondary green off the tee area so there are things like that where you can come and play 30 minutes or play a couple of holes, four holes or six holes or a full nine holes. We have lots of flexibility on the golf course so it caters to families, to those who don't have much time, or have taken off after work or can't get to the golf course until after dinner even."

Meeting all these individual needs requires flexibility in thinking, too. Golfers play for their own reasons. They can favour one aspect of the sport over another. Mickelson is well known for his skills at the short game, but Ehlert says Mickelson believes golfers overall like to drive, long. The course has been designed with those who like to play it long in mind as well as the short lovers.

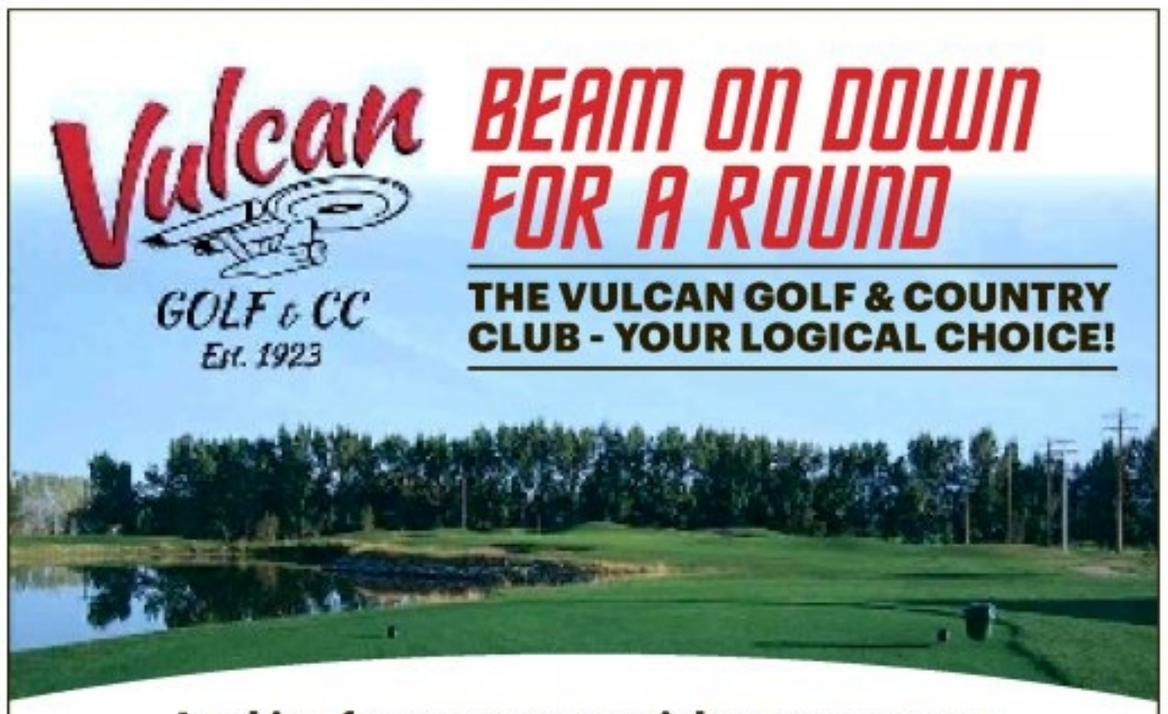
"People like to see the ball go as far as they can hit it," says Ehlert, "and so on most holes, barring the Par 3s, just about every one of them, you have the ability to launch the driver. It's very player friendly and generous off the tee. It's an enjoyable experience."

Having a course that was fun and enjoyable was a vital part of his discussions with Mickelson, says Ehlert. They did not want to take the fun factor out by making the course too hard but conversely there's no fun if it's too easy, he says.

"Golf is a difficult enough sport as it is and we don't need to add layers of complexity, or layers of trickery, just to make it more difficult. We don't need that. We want to make it fun and encourage people to play," he says.

Providing all ages and all skill levels a fulfilling experience that encourages them to return time after time required a lot of flexibility on the side of the designer.

The art of the Mickelson lies in that flexibility, in its willingness to bend past the courses of the past.



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"We're not for sale, but let me tell you what. If somebody shows up with $4 billion, we can talk": Dana White on reports UFC is up for sale

Lowry lowers the boom

RAPTORS
TORONTO LEADS 3-2

Point guard hits late buckets, DeRozan ices game from line

GAME 5 In Toronto

99	91

For the first time in perhaps the entire post-season, Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan both played like all-stars.

And now the Toronto Raptors are one victory away from the NBA Eastern Conference final.

DeRozan scored 34 points, while Lowry had 25 to lift the Raptors 99-91 over the Heat on Wednesday. They head back to Miami with a 3-2 lead in their best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal.

A win in Friday's Game 6 and the Raptors will play in the conference final for the first time in the team's 21-year history.

Dwyane Wade led Miami with 20.

In what's turned into a series of attrition, the Raptors are without Jonas Valanciunas for the series (ankle), and DeRozan is battling a thumb injury. The Heat are missing starting centre Hassan Whiteside (knee).

Lowry and DeRozan's solid shooting sparked an early 20-point Raptors lead, before the Heat cut it to 10 with a 16-2 run that straddled the second and third quarter.

The Raptors headed into the fourth up 75-62, but back-to-back three-pointers from Josh Richardson cut the lead to seven points. DeRozan took a hard hit to his bad thumb, and made a beeline for the locker-room. But he returned with four minutes to play, to a warm ovation, and was huge in his return.

Wade scored Miami's final eight points, and cut the Heat's deficit to one point with two minutes to play.

But DeRozan scored 13 of the Raptors' fourth-quarter points, while Lowry had seven, including a three-point dagger with 53 seconds left that he followed up with another long jumper that had the Air Canada Centre crowd roaring.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ACHES, PAINS

DeMarre Carroll left with a wrist injury late in the third quarter.

Carroll crashed to the ground after running into a Miami player attempting to set a block. He headed to the Toronto locker-room and did not return, but the Raptors said X-rays were negative.

Raptors point guard Kyle Lowry scores a layup against the Heat's Dwyane Wade on Wednesday. RON TURENNE/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

NHL PLAYOFFS

Stars fizzle out, Blues advance to Western final

The Blues will play either the Sharks or Predators in the Western Conference final. LM OTERO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAME 7 In Dallas

6	1
BLUES	STARS

St. Louis did more than survive a Game 7 this time. The Blues dominated to advance to their first Western Conference final since 2001.

Linemates Robby Fabbri, Paul Stastny and Troy Brouwer each scored a goal and assisted on each other's tallies, as the Blues beat the Dallas Stars 6-1 on Wednesday night.

The Blues, in the playoffs for the 40th time and still in search of their first Stanley Cup, will have home-ice advantage in the Western Conference final against Nashville or San Jose — and for the Stanley Cup as well if they advance. The Predators and Sharks play their deciding Game 7 on Thursday night.

David Backes and Patrik Berglund also had goals for the Blues, who won their third road game in the series. Vladimir Tarasenko added an empty-netter with 4:40 left.

Patrick Eaves had the lone goal for Dallas, which matched its most lopsided playoff loss. The Stars also lost 6-1 in Game 3 of this series.

It was the fourth straight game in the series, and fifth overall, won by the visiting team, and a lopsided finish to a second-round series matching the Western Conference's top two teams in the regular season. The Blues were only two points behind Dallas in the regular-season standings for the top seed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Scherzer's 20 strikeouts match big-league record

Max Scherzer struck out 20 batters, matching the major-league record for a nine-inning game as he pitched the Washington Nationals past the Detroit Tigers 3-2 on Wednesday night.

The right-hander, who pitched two no-hitters last season and struck out 17 in the second one, joined Roger Clemens (twice), Kerry Wood and Randy Johnson as the only big-league pitchers to compile 20 strikeouts in nine innings.

Tom Cheney holds the major-league record with 21 strikeouts in a 16-inning game. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays denied Giants sweep

Buster Posey walked with the bases loaded in the 13th inning and the San Francisco Giants salvaged one victory in a three-game series with the Toronto Blue Jays, winning 5-4 on Wednesday.

With the Jays trailing 4-3, Michael Saunders led off the ninth with a solo home run to straightaway centre. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eugenie through, Milos out

Eugenie Bouchard reached the third round of the Italian Open with an upset of second seed Angelique Kerber on Wednesday, while fellow Canadian Milos Raonic was ousted by nemesis Nick Kyrgios.

Raonic fell 7-6 (5), 6-3 to Kyrgios, who has won three straight matches against the Canadian. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sunderland victory ousts Newcastle and Norwich

Sunderland completed its latest escape from relegation in the English Premier League on Wednesday and consigned bitter northeast rival Newcastle to the second tier in the process.

A 3-0 win over Everton guaranteed safety for Sunderland with a game to spare this season, justifying its decision to hire survival specialist Sam Allardyce as manager in October. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Flatbread Pizza

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This is one of those dishes that doesn't really require a recipe. A flatbread pizza is an easy end of day meal win because it uses leftovers and comes together easy.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 large flatbread
- 1/3 cup pasatta (lightly seasoned, pureed tomatoes)
- 6 mushrooms, sliced thinly
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup ricotta
- 1/2 tsp lemon zest
- 1/3 zucchini, sliced with a vegetable peeler into ribbons
- 1/2 cup Parmesan, grated
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 400. Arrange all your ingredients on your flatbread and bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until crust is golden brown and vegetables are fork tender.

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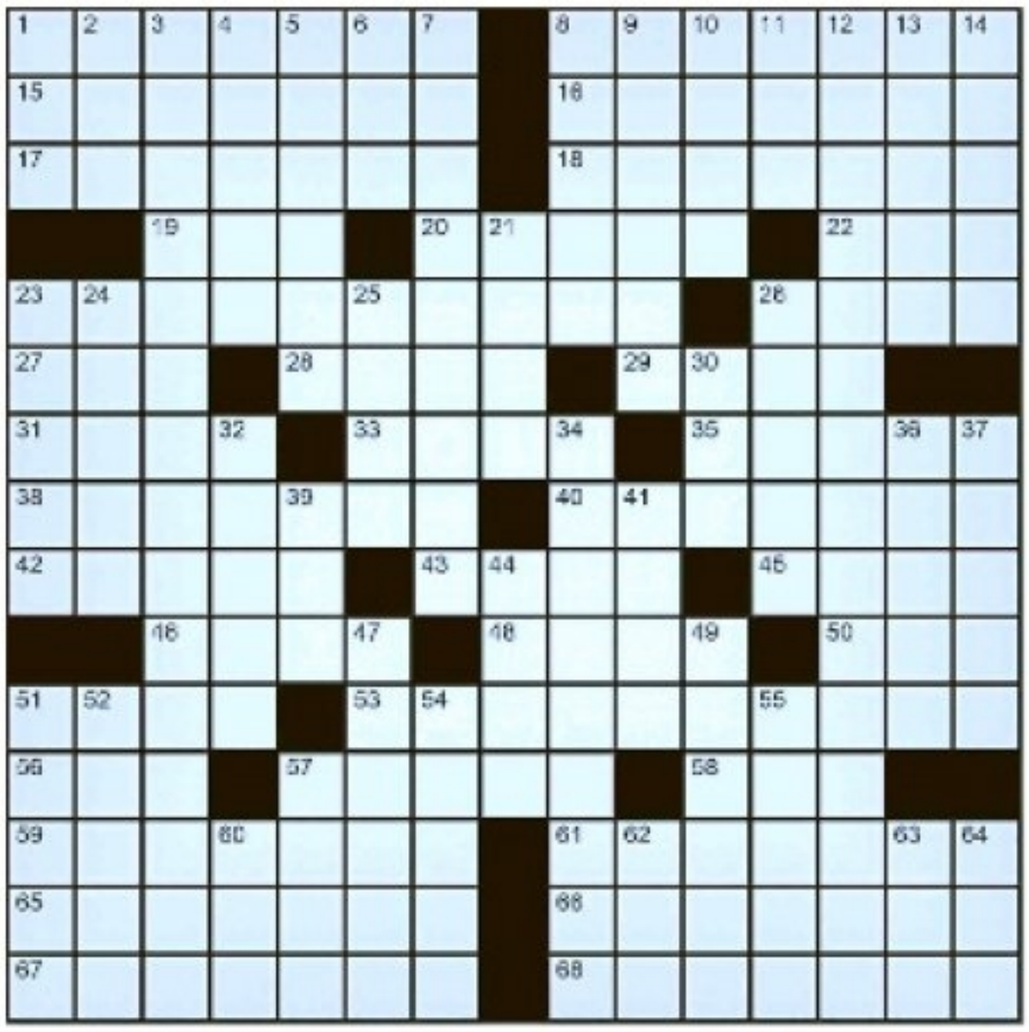
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Belonging to Massachusetts' capital city
8. Shoppers Drug Mart: __ Card
15. Undetected, like some fighter aircraft
16. Wealth
17. To the point
18. __ Pops (Candy-filled treats on a stick)
19. Six and Eight separator, wee-ly
20. Harped on
22. Incurred
23. Canadian magazine since 1928
26. Coastal birds
27. Former military General's abbr.
28. Some rodents
29. Jean Arp's art
31. Dismounted
33. Livelinesses
35. Posh sofa
38. Miami's locale
40. Sugar pill, in clinical trials
42. Gin and __
43. Function
45. Larger __ life
46. __ acetate (Banana oil)
48. Challenger
50. Devoured
51. Mr. Mineo's
53. No need for the whispers, it's a known thing: 2 wds.
56. Will Smith movie
57. __ 99 (Maxwell Smart's colleague)
58. Male swan
59. Cough drop
61. Cut from the Coast: 2 wds.
13. Alliance
14. Gets introduced to
21. Bit of bangs
23. Artsy creation
24. Adele tune
25. Force in California's largest city [acronym]
26. Decree
30. Inman's love in "Cold Mountain" (2003)
32. Crops
34. Wood worker's woes
36. Taper off
37. Three trios
39. Glacial
41. Spike and Bruce
44. Stove
47. Lumberjack
49. Food formula
51. Beauty parlour
52. Flying solo
54. Baby bird sounds
55. Terra __ flower pots
57. 'A' of AM
60. Founded, for short
62. "See Saw Margery __" (18th-century nursery rhyme)
63. Mr. Geller
64. Downing's political address number in Britain
65. '__ __ Beyond...': 1979 album for British ska band Madness
66. 1981 Blondie hit
67. Empty __ (Couples with unused-extra-bedrooms)
68. Administer an oath of office: 2 wds.

DOWN
1. Particular letters for a grad
2. Prefix to 'logist' (Ear doctor)
3. Tells a tabloid type of tale
4. Be silent, in music
5. !-ending musical
6. Days opp.
7. Cry: 3 wds.
8. Frequently
9. Combined, as resources
10. Horse gait
11. Cousin __
12. Newfoundland town on the Kittiwake

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You might see new uses for something that you own today because you're in a resourceful frame of mind. You might act on an old idea you had for making money.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Take a realistic look in the mirror today to see how you can improve your appearance. What you see might be something you have been thinking about doing for a while.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is an excellent day for research, because you will apply yourself diligently to whatever it is you are looking for. Yes, you'll be like a dog with a bone.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You might attract someone very powerful to you today. This person might say something that actually causes you to modify your goals for the future.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Conversations with bosses, parents and VIPs will be memorable today. Quite likely, they will ask you about old business. Perhaps they want you to account for something.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you discuss politics, religion or racial issues today, you will get serious. Likewise, this is a good day to study thoughtful subjects.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You might see a new way to tackle problems about inheritances or shared property. Old disputes might be solved now because of a new way of thinking.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Discussions with others are powerful today. This might be because you are coming on strong or because others are coming on strong. Whatever happens, listen carefully.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Look for ways to introduce improvements and reforms at work, because you will see them today. Likewise, you might see ways to improve your own health.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You might have a romantic obsession today. Be careful, because this kind of fantasy can overtake your sense of perspective and reality. Try to see things as they really are.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your ideas about how to make improvements at home probably are solid. Talk to a family member to get agreement with someone. Then it will be all systems go.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You have penetrating insights into whatever you think about or talk about today, because your mind is like a laser. You see the reasons behind things, the subtext.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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